



**Ex-Hagibis' son:**  
I love my stepdad  
very, very much

**300 Bulacan**  
teachers to stop  
receiving pay

**Ten most hideous**  
characters  
of all time



**Ombudsman asks**  
NBI for report on  
murdered colonel

**Fire guts Rustan's**  
warehouse  
in Taguig

**Halloween sa 'Pinas:**  
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## Matillano getting 'only' P3M in retirement pay



By Christian Esguerra  
THE MAN'S getting "only" P3 million—but he's not complaining.  
"Sige na, ayos na rin (it's OK, I'll settle for that)," Director Eduardo MATILLANO/A8



Wednesday, October 27, 2004 ★★ 78 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 322 P18

## House waters down taxes; GMA meets tobacco men

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met on Monday night with representatives of Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris after the powerful ways and means committee of the House of Representatives decided not to index the tax-  
HOUSE/A8

website: www.inq7.net

# Miriam fires guns at generals' wives

*'Mrs. Chief of Staff leads active group'*

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

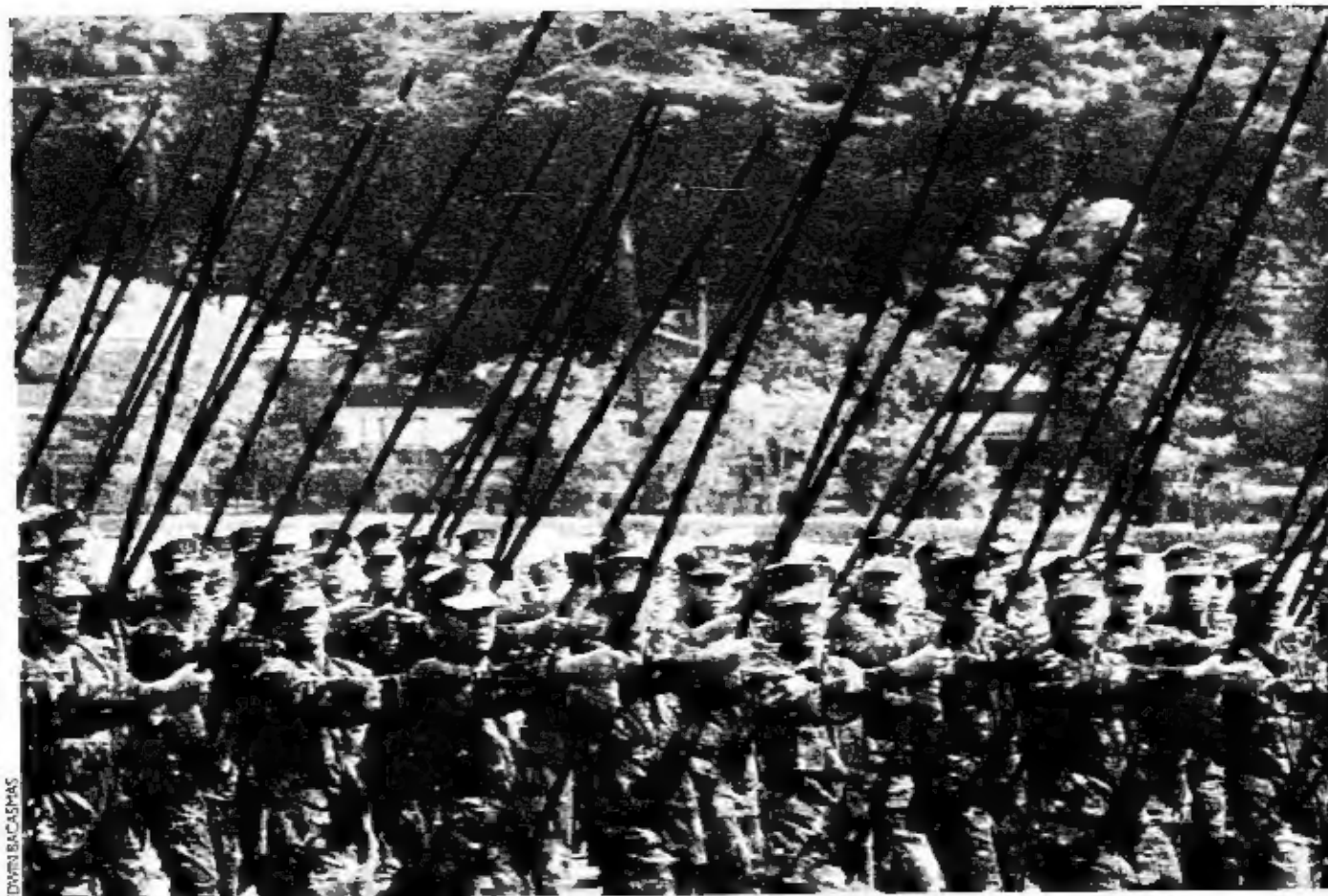
SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago yesterday continued to pound the Armed Forces, saying that apart from the members of the "Gang of 12," a parallel group composed of their wives was actively involved in the "institutionalized" corruption in the service.

The administration senator said that unlike the wives of Mafia bosses, the women were "part of an operatic performance where costumes, such as uniforms and awards pinned to the chest, served to hide [their illegal deeds]."

"They themselves go out of their way to talk to the dealers" of military supplies, Santiago said in an interview.

She said that while not every general's spouse was involved in corruption, the women were usually led by the "Mrs. Chief of Staff" who "receives a cash reward of more or less P100 million, which is immediately converted into royalty-size diamonds, luxury vehicles, dance instructors, trips abroad."

The women are easy to spot because even their salt-and-pepper hair is "now colored orange, red, or other puzzling hues sufficient  
MIRIAM/A22



THICK in rehearsals for the turnover rites of the AFP command from Gen. Narciso Abaya to Gen. Efrén Abu on Friday, foot soldiers go through the ceremonials even as they are reportedly reeling from the mind-blowing sums that some of their superiors allegedly "converted" and pocketed for their own pleasure. GMA says not to "drench the uniform in dishonor for the acts of a few."

## Military enraged by Miriam charges

By Alcuin Papa and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ACCUSATION of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that a "Gang of 12" controls the Armed Forces of the Philippines and steals from it some P2 billion a year "strengthens the enemies of the state and poisons the minds of the soldiers," the AFP spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Santiago's statement was an insult to the generals, their families, the officer corps

and ordinary soldiers.

"It is as if the sacrifices they made for 30 years or so in the service were all for naught. For a soldier, that hurts. They are human beings, too," Adan said at a press conference.

He said Gen. Narciso Abaya, the AFP chief of staff, and members of the Joint Staff Command were "angry and indignant" over Santiago's comments.

Santiago said the "Gang of 12," which according to her was made up of the chief

of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11), had institutionalized corruption in the military through "clearance" and "conversion."

Clearance refers to the falsification of public documents while conversion involves the malversation of public funds, according to the senator.

At least three officers led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former military comptroller, face court-martial for having  
MILITARY/A21

## SC rules court-martial for 290 Oakwood mutineers

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has paved the way for the court-martial of 290 junior officers and enlisted personnel involved in the Oakwood mutiny in Makati last year.

In a 29-page decision released late on Monday, the tribunal dismissed the petitions of the soldiers to stop the court-martial proceedings against them, saying the general court-martial

had jurisdiction over the mutineers.

It said that Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel erred in ruling in February that the soldiers' offenses were "not service-connected," pointing out that Pimentel no longer had jurisdiction over the soldiers after another Makati court had dropped the charges of coup d'état against them.

The case did not include the 32 alleged ringleaders of the mutiny, who

are still facing coup charges before Pimentel's court.

"In fine, in making the sweeping declaration that these charges were not service-connected, but rather absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'état, the (Makati court) acted without or in excess of jurisdiction," said the high court in its unanimous ruling penned by Justice Romeo Callejo Sr.

"Such declaration is, in legal contem-

plation, necessarily null and void and does not exist."

The soldiers had asked the Supreme Court to stop the court-martial proceedings against them after Pimentel ruled on Feb. 11 that their offenses were "not service connected but absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'état."

They said this meant that the general court-martial no longer had jurisdiction  
SC OKAYS/A22

## Garcia withdrew P38M two days after story broke

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendano

SEN. SERGIO Osmeña III yesterday said that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family had eight more deposit accounts in one bank totaling P38.7 million.

Osmeña said Garcia himself withdrew the money in "boxes" from the United Coconut Planters Bank branch at the Salcedo Place Tower in Salcedo Village, Makati City, on Oct. 7, or just two days after the media reported on the corruption charges the general was facing for his unexplained wealth.

"At 3 p.m. of Oct. 7, General Garcia withdrew everything in cash, because there was  
GARCIA/A21

## Caroline cheers 'tox-sick' kids



ROYAL company: Princess Caroline visits children in Mabalacat believed to have gotten sick from the toxic waste left behind by US bases.

By Tonette Orejas  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—With a huge lump marring his cheek and forehead, 7-year-old Michael Pili finds it difficult to smile.

Yesterday was different. The little boy sat beside Monaco's Princess Caroline of Hanover and he was positively beaming.

He was one of 500 sick children whose illnesses had been linked to the toxic waste left by the US military at its former bases at Clark and Subic.

Michael's grandmother Norma, 61, took to the podium of the Parish of the Lord's Resurrection at the Madapdap resettlement site here and struggled to speak in English.

She thanked the princess for the visit and asked her to do one thing: "Please tell the story of Michael and the other sick children like him  
CAROLINE/A8



ABANDONED by his parents and living in a dump in Baguio, Melchor Fernandez, 5, scavenges for leftovers and finds himself a chocolate bar. The likes of Melchor is the reason for being of the Virilanie Foundation, which is one of the main beneficiaries of Amade Mondiale of which Princess Caroline of Monaco is president and why she's here for the first time.

## Princess stark simple in dinner to raise P20M for RP's poor kids

By Thelma S. San Juan  
INQUIRER columnist

FORTUNATELY, Manila didn't overdress Monday night (except for a few who shall go unnamed) at the fund-raising dinner for the country's disadvantaged children, because the guest of honor, Princess Caroline of Hanover (or of Monaco, as she was called before her marriage to a German royal) came noticeably dressed down.

She was in a long black sheath, unadorned, with only a gold cuff for a bracelet and gold earrings. The city's women in the 400-strong crowd, however, obviously exerted effort to don their long gowns as the invitation had specified, along with black-tie for men.

Royalty, anywhere and everywhere, is a crowd drawer. In the case of Princess Caroline's first visit to Metro Manila, the event carried a huge price tag. She did it to raise funds for the thousands of abused and displaced children and a few adults who have been under the wing of the humanitarian group, Virilanie Foundation Inc.

The foundation was founded by French sociologist Dominique Lemay, who has lived here since the '90s. Virilanie is a regular beneficiary of the worldwide humanitarian institution, Amade Mondiale, of which Princess Car-

PRINCESS/A21



AUSTERLY dressed at the royal dinner, Princess Caroline chats with Virilanie founder Dominique Lemay and Mary Prieto.



## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/27/04

## Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	South Visayas	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Partly Cloudy
Yogyakarta	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Tacolban	Partly Cloudy
Clark	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Manila	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Partly Cloudy

# AFP goes on red alert



MASKED, Sen. Manny Villar and Gen. Anselmo Avenido preside over the burning of the illegal drugs.

## Palace on coup: What coup?

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACANANG yesterday kept its poise as it brushed off speculations of another coup d'etat in the offing.

In an interview with reporters following a meeting of the National Security Council, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet and military officials tackled the worsening violence in Iraq and that they never discussed the swirling coup rumors or Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's claim that there were three military generals plotting a mutiny.

"The President as commander in chief knows the status of the Armed Forces and the loyalty of the chain of command is unbreakable," said Bunye when asked if Biazon's claim was serious enough to merit a closer look by higher-ups. "We don't know what are the reasons of Biazon for making the statement."

President Arroyo had cut short her afternoon schedule yesterday to attend the NSC meeting attended by top police and military officials which further bolstered talks of a coup triggered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines red alert status.

Bunye said that the AFP spokesperson had fully explained the red alert status as a precaution against reports of an order by exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison to carry out bombing attacks in the country.

Bunye said the NSC meeting, presided over by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, focused on the Iraq situation and how the government should prepare for an evacuation of overseas Filipino workers there should the situation become more dangerous.

He said the meeting had been booked as early as two days ago and another one was set for Nov. 3 to draw up the government's contingency plans. "We want to constantly remind our compatriots of the danger of going to Iraq at this time. While we were lucky the first time in the hostage situation with Angelo de la Cruz, the next time we might not be as lucky," Bunye said.

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines went on red alert yesterday against possible attempts by communist guerrillas to destabilize the government, amid a widening corruption scandal in the military.

An AFP spokesperson said troops were placed on 24-hour standby with all leaves canceled because of fears of attacks, after exiled rebel leaders had called for "widespread dissent" against the government for allegedly sabotaging the peace negotiations with them.

Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison had called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's removal through "a popular uprising, civil disobedience, the mass withdrawal of support by political parties and personages, voluntary resignation, a coup d'etat or any combination thereof."

The Armed Forces "increased the alert status to red effective at 8 a.m. today," AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said in a statement.

"This is to prepare the troops in the light of possible heightened attacks by communist terrorists," the statement said.

### Tip from US

Lucero told Agence France-Presse the military had warned two weeks ago that the guerrillas planned to exploit the present controversy in the military.

At least three AFP officers led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former military comptroller, face court-martial for having unexplained wealth.

The probe was triggered by a tip from the US government early this year that Garcia and members of his family had brought in nearly a million dollars to the United States over 10 years while he was earning the equivalent of about \$7,200 a year.

### Court-martial proceedings

President Arroyo ordered the military to start court-martial proceedings against Garcia by Friday.

On Monday, she had said the scandal could provoke attempts to destabilize her government by enemies other than guerrillas.

"I will deal with these destabilizers with an iron fist, even as I hold out an open hand and open mind for those who are open to a just and dignified reconciliation," she had said.

Communist rebels last week accused the government of sabotaging the peace negotiations by linking them to international terrorists after President Arroyo said there were "growing links between the revolutionary left and international terrorist organizations."

The President, however, offered no proof of the links and did not name any terrorist organizations.

Communist guerrilla spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a statement that Ms Arroyo was "ripe for the ousting" for 10 reasons, including her alleged plan to terminate the stalled peace negotiations with them.

### Growing links

The President last week called for a review of the approach to the 35-year-old communist rebellion, citing the growing links between the rebels and international terrorist organizations.

The communists denied such links.

For its part, the Philippine National Police yesterday maintained its heightened alert status which is lower than a red alert.

As far as the PNP is concerned, there is no security threat coming either from the communist New People's Army or international terrorist groups like the Jemaah Islamiyah, Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, said.

### All Saints' Day

"The heightened alert status was brought about mainly by the coming All Saints' Day [on Monday]," Bataoil told the INQUIRER.

By Saturday, he said, the PNP would go on full alert which is equivalent to the military's red alert.

But he pointed out that a full alert was routine for the PNP during All Saints' Day.

One political analyst told Reuters he was skeptical about the military move to go on alert.

"The communist movement is in total disarray. I hope the army is not trying to cover up the corruption scandal by raising threats from the armed left," said Ronald Llamas. Alcuin Papa, Christian V. Esguerra; AFP, AP, Reuters

## PDEA burns P2.3B worth of illegal drugs

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday destroyed P2.3 billion worth of confiscated high-grade shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), shabu-making ingredients, and other dangerous drugs in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Incinerated were 70,081 grams of shabu, 444,827 milliliters of methamphetamine HCL liquid, two million grams of marijuana, 248,000 milliliters of elixir syrup, 1.3 million of phenobarbital, 176,000 grams of Lomocil, and 379,000 grams of other banned substances.

The haul covered a total of 662 cases, 405 of which came from the PDEA, 255 from the National Bureau of Investigation, and two from the Philippine National Police.

The burning of the banned substances, held at the Integrated Waste Management Facility in Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires, brought to P9.6 billion the amount of danger-

ous drugs the government has destroyed since July 30, 2002 when the PDEA was officially activated.

Undersecretary General Anselmo Avenido Jr., the PDEA director, said the dangerous drugs had been confiscated in the course of 3,406 anti-drugs operations.

He added that this was the 10th time that a huge volume of confiscated drugs were destroyed under RA 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

"This burning should erase public perception that confiscated drugs are being recycled in the streets," Avenido said.

Administration Sen. Manuel Villar, who attended the drugs-burning exercise, urged the President to declare a national "drug crisis," saying the drug menace has remained the Philippines' top problem despite the numerous raids on clandestine illegal drug factories.

"We must face the drug prob-

lem the way we are facing the fiscal crisis because this problem is much bigger than we think it is. The President must control this crisis and face this directly," he said in a statement.

Villar, who chairs the congressional oversight committee on illegal drugs, said he would initiate a "deeper look" into the problem which has "caused the destruction of so many lives and damaged the economy."

He said he was not satisfied with the recent success of the government drug enforcement offices.

"I don't know if we should be contented with the destruction of these confiscated drugs. Because we still don't know how much of the total drugs [available in the streets] have already been cleared," he said. Christian V. Esguerra, Nelson F. Flores and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## Ombudsman probing Army colonel's slay ...

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has requested the National Bureau of Investigation for the documents and a report on the investigation into the killing of former Army logistics chief Col. Raul Heredia, who was gunned down in an ambush last year.

The NBI received the request on Monday, but the Ombudsman did not state the reason for the request. The NBI is expected to submit the documents in the next few days.

But NBI sources said the request could have been done in connection with the Ombudsman's corruption probe into former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who has been accused of amassing millions of pesos

in assets despite receiving a P19,000 monthly salary.

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported sources as saying that Heredia could have been killed because he allegedly failed to give other officers their share of the money from a "big contract."

The same INQUIRER report also said that Heredia had allegedly amassed P14 million in deposits at Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLA) and with the Air Materiel Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AMSAL).

He was also reported to own a resort in Laguna and properties in Baguio, Makati and Rizal.

Heredia, 49, was gunned down on Dec. 23, 2003 outside his parents' house in Proj. 4, Quezon City. Lella Salaverria

## 2 senators warn of 'military adventurism'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE CORRUPTION controversy involving Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia has so shaken the military that two factions are threatening to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

One faction is made up of those seeking to protect the corrupt system in the Armed Forces and the other wants to cleanse it, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said three retired Filipino generals in the United States told him they were "talking about (engaging) in military adventurism" in light of the Garcia case.

"I am not being alarmist," Biazon told reporters. "I am raising this issue to forewarn the people, especially the AFP."

Biazon said he was in Los Angeles, California, last week when he

met with the retired generals who, like him, were in the US for a visit.

"They were talking about the possibility of addressing the situation through military adventurism," he said.

The senator, a retired general who served as AFP chief of staff during the Aquino administration, said he dissuaded the three generals from taking any action.

But "when I advised them to forget about it, they just looked at me," he said.

He did not name the generals, saying only that they had been high-profile and influential during their stints in the AFP. One of them was his senior, Biazon said.

In a separate interview, Santiago said junior military officers were disgruntled with the corruption in the military.

She said a group of "idealistic"

junior officers had approached her and served as the sources for her privilege speech the other day in which she revealed the systemic corruption in the AFP that was allegedly perpetrated by the "Gang of 12" top officers.

Asked if the group of young officers planned to engage in military adventurism because of the Garcia controversy, she said: "I must say that this was implied during our dialogue."

Santiago said there were actually many groups that wanted to destabilize the government and these included "those who are pro-military takeover and anti-military takeover."

"Kaya umahan na nila (That's why they're going to try to beat the others to it)," she said of the young officers. "There are many things brewing in the AFP," she added.

For its part, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers Inc. is upset over the probe being conducted by the House, saying this could lead to widespread demoralization in the ranks and destabilization attempts.

In a statement released to media yesterday and signed by Brig. Gen. Paterno Lomongo (ret.), AGFO corporate secretary, the group said it was "upset at some developments" in the congressional probe of Garcia.

"AGFO views the ongoing proceedings and its concomitant effect on the general public, particularly those with insidious objectives, with grave concern. The morale of the rank and file of the AFP may be adversely affected by the negative comments against the AFP and the whole situation is open to exploitation by those whose agenda is to destabilize or topple the government." With Alcuin Papa

## ... And ex-PNP comptroller

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday confirmed that the Office of the Ombudsman was investigating former Philippine National Police comptroller and now Transportation Undersecretary Cecilio Penilla for alleged unexplained wealth.

In an interview, Marcelo said US authorities have sent his office some information on Penilla's assets in the United States.

It was information from US

Customs authorities that started the Ombudsman's ongoing investigation into former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

"Yes, we are now doing [a] fact-finding investigation on him [Penilla]. Our investigators are in the process of verifying information received by the office about his assets. I am not at liberty to discuss this procedure until we have something definite," Marcelo said. Armand Nocum

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday revealed they had started investigating the P18 million increase in the assets and cash of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

But will the Ombudsman leave Reyes' mother alone?

"We will not make her answer," Marcelo said. "If there is evidence (of graft), the public official will have to answer."

He explained that Reyes' case was different from that of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, whose wife and children were caught bringing in dollars to the United States and who were named owners of Garcia's properties.

"Angie (Reyes) did not give the money to

his mother, whereas Garcia was the source of the money found in the possession of his wife and children," Marcelo said during a break in the anti-graft seminar sponsored by the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the United Nations Development Program.

The former Armed Forces chief of staff earlier explained that his cash deposits rose from P700,000 in 2002 to P4.1 million in 2003 because he had transferred his 94-year-old mother's money to his account.

Reyes said he and his mother decided to have a joint account to make it easy to withdraw money for the emergency use of his mother.

Marcelo admitted they started the investi-

gation on Reyes based on newspaper reports. He clarified that Reyes had not been singled out and that their investigation covered all other government officials.

"We are verifying allegations as they appear in newspapers," he said.

The Ombudsman also clarified that Reyes had not been cleared of an administrative charge started by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) on the construction of a P10-million house in Taguig.

In Monday's congressional hearing, Reyes repeatedly said the Ombudsman had cleared him of the charge.

Marcelo said the case they dismissed against Reyes involved the multimillion-peso purchase of "spare parts" for military vehicles.



# Zambo mayor scuttling peace talks—MILF

By TJ Burgonio

THE SECESSIONIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday slammed Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat for refusing to host an international team to monitor a cease fire agreement, and accused the mayor of sabotaging the peace talks.

Lobregat has rejected a plan to allow the 60-member monitoring team from Malaysia and Brunei to maintain a base in the city, saying that it would lure the separatist rebels, disrupt peace in the city, violate a gun ban and spoil the city's image as a tourist destination.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said Lobregat's refusal was "tantamount to sabotaging the peace process" based on "pure, selfish motives."

"Others are spending millions to help us attain lasting peace and here comes a local executive trying to scuttle the peace process," he said in a phone interview.

Deputy Speaker and Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin also assailed Lobregat for his "unwelcome" remarks to the international peace monitors.

## 'Here to help us make peace'

"If we welcome the presence, sometimes the direct involvement of American soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf group, I see no reason why we apply different standards to the [international monitoring team] who are here to help us make peace," said Salapuddin.

Kabalu urged the government to avert further damage by convincing Lobregat to comply with a standing agreement among the government, its foreign counterparts, and the MILF to allow the peace monitors to maintain a base in Zamboanga City.

"The government should settle this move by Lobregat. As far as I can recall, Zamboanga City is not an independent republic yet and is under the national government," he said.

"Besides, this is an international agreement reached after several consultations. We can't change it unless all the parties sit down again to amend it," he said.

The refusal reportedly forced local officials to look elsewhere for an alternative base for the monitors, who arrived in two batches this month to oversee the ceasefire agreement for a year.

## Doing consultations

Teresita Quintos Deles, the presidential adviser on the peace process, yesterday admitted that her office has not yet finalized plans for a transfer site for the monitoring team "because we need to do consultation first with the local government officials."

The team's arrival was hailed by both the government and the MILF, saying that it would bolster past agreements and lay the ground for the resumption of stalled peace talks.

Kabalu dismissed Lobregat's claim that allowing the monitors to stay in the city would invite violence as the MILF has been assigned to provide security for the monitors jointly



LOBREGAT

with government troops.

He said that contrary to speculations, only two rebels were assigned to guard the monitors at any given time, he said.

"We have no intention to occupy Zamboanga, much less distract the peace process. We want peace. They look down upon us as if we're barbaric people. Why should they fear two rebels? What are they fearful about?" Kabalu said.

Another team of four monitors from Libya is expected to arrive in the middle of next month when Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month, ends and exploratory talks are expected to resume.

## Accessible, strategic site

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, the government representative in the joint coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities, said Zamboanga City was a very accessible and strategic site for the peace monitors' work.

Lobregat said his city was not considered a conflict area and that the people were still suffering the trauma brought about the Cabatangan siege perpetrated by the followers of Nur Misuari, the founding leader of the mainstream Muslim insurgency, the Moro National Liberation Front.

But Salapuddin said healing comes when there is forgiveness, stressing that "the business of making peace is both our individual and collective responsibility to make it succeed."

Salapuddin also reminded Lobregat "to contribute and support in every way the effective implementation of the ceasefire leading to the sealing of the final peace agreement" with the MILF. With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

# AFP denies JI terror suspects are gov't assets

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED Forces yesterday belied the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's claim that a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group that allegedly planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila was a military asset.

"The AFP strongly belies reports that the suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomber, who planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila is a 'military asset,'" said a statement from Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the chief of the AFP Public Information Office.

Military officials said the Mentang, who was arrested on Oct. 6 with his live-in partner Monawara Usop and another associate, Mursid Mubpon, had surveilled the US Embassy in preparation for a planned bomb attack.

The three, who were presented to the media last Thursday, allegedly owned up to having carried out the Davao City bombings in 2003 which killed 42 people and injured hundreds of others.

Mentang also reportedly admitted to being an MILF member and of having been trained in demolition work by JI experts in MILF camps.

The MILF's chief peace negotiator, Mo-haquer Iqbal, claimed last Monday that Mentang was working for the military as an informant.

Lucero said the AFP had in fact already presented Mentang and Usop for prosecution before the city prosecutor's office of Manila.

The prosecutors have recommended the filing of charges against Mentang and Usop for illegal possession of firearms, he said.

Military and police intelligence agents recovered a .38 caliber pistol and a .45 caliber pistol with live ammunition during a

raid on Mentang's house on Fabie Street in Sta. Ana, Manila, on Oct. 6.

The prosecutors also recommended the filing of separate charges against Usop for "attempted homicide" after she allegedly pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and pointed it at one of the raiders.

Mentang reportedly admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the MILF and that he belonged to the first batch of 15 MILF members trained in "basic demolition for urban terrorism" at Camp Huday-biyah in Butig, Lanao del Sur, in 1995.

He said the training was conducted by JI leader Zulkifli, an Indonesian who was arrested in Malaysia late last year.

Mentang also said that it was he who assembled the bombs that were used in the Davao International Airport and Sasa Wharf explosions.

Iqbal claimed that the arrest of the three suspects was part of an attempt to divert public attention from the ongoing investigation of corruption in the AFP.

He also said the arrest was part of the military's efforts to link the MILF to the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asia-based terror group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network.

The MILF chieftain also said that the military had used Mentang to arrest other suspects in the Davao bombings.

Defense and military officials maintain that JI militants are training local and foreign terrorists in the Mt. Kararao range in Lanao del Sur, an area controlled by the MILF. The Muslim rebel group has denied the charge.

Peace talks between the MILF and the government are set to start once Malaysia, which is brokering the negotiations, sets the date for the resumption of talks.

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# BCDA itching to evict ex-generals from P12-B property

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By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE CORRUPTION scandal hounding the military has boosted the Bases Conversion Development Authority's (BCDA) hope of getting a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court that would allow it to evict the retired generals and their families from the P12-billion JUSMAG (Joint US Military Advisory Group) property in Fort Bonifacio.

"We are confident that the High Court would rule in our favor after two setbacks in the lower courts especially with the public outcry over widespread corruption in the military," said BCDA general counsel Arnel Paciano D. Casanova in a telephone interview. "We expect to evict them within the year and sell the property to raise funds that would implement the much delayed modernization program of the Armed Forces."

Casanova said that among the top military officers with houses in the property are former military chiefs of staff Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu and Benjamin Defensor; Gregorio Camiling and Ernesto Carolina; and Philippine National Police chief Gregorio Aglipay and Major Gen. Alfonso Dagudag.

The BCDA, which had been keen on disposing of the property for more than a decade, took the lead in the case last year after the Office of the Solicitor General got an adverse ruling from the Pasig Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals which upheld the titles held by the Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI), made up of the wives of retired military officers, on the 35-hectare property.

The BCDA has argued that SHAI was not qualified to purchase or hold the lands in question because the Constitution specified that only natural entities or individuals could hold land titles; that SHAI has not proven that JUSMAG property has been released from military reservation; and that there was no evidence of their payment (at P30 per square meter to the Lands Management Bureau in October 1991 or five months before BCDA was formed to handle the disposition of former military bases).

Casanova said that the government has already rejected overtures from SHAI for a compromise deal to split 50-50 the projected proceeds of the sale of the disputed property located across some of the most expensive pieces of land in the country. "If we sell the property for P8 billion and they get half, it would mean close to a P40-million windfall for the 106 officers in the property that they never owned. That would be scandalous," Casanova said.

He said the recovery of the JUSMAG property was one of the recommendations made by the Feliciano Commission which undertook a probe of the complaints aired by the Oakwood mudnests which includes their gripes about retired officers overstaying in quarters reserved for active officers.



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2004 Lancer 1.6 GL MT	658,000	78,700	27,576	19,646	15,755	13,817	12,532
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX MT	698,000	84,700	29,252	20,840	16,713	14,657	13,294
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	90,700	31,787	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,437
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	99,700	35,120	25,020	20,065	17,597	15,961
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel MT	875,000	101,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,858
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas MT	700,000	85,000	28,336	20,900	16,780	14,699	13,332
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel MT*	740,000	111,000	31,013	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas MT	795,000	79,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,694	15,142
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	805,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	19,275	16,904	15,332
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas AT	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,304	17,807	16,151
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	935,000	105,250	39,185	27,817	22,387	19,634	17,808
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas AT	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,260	23,465	20,579	18,665
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas AT	1,180,000	87,000	48,511	34,561	27,715	24,307	22,254
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD AT	1,280,000	77,000	53,643	38,217	30,648	26,979	24,379

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2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX MT	698,000	319,000	16,224	11,559	9,269	8,129	7,596
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	341,000	17,619	12,552	10,068	8,828	8,243
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	389,000	19,478	13,877	11,128	9,760	9,113
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel MT**	875,000	337,500	15,701	11,186	8,970	7,867	7,123
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas MT**	700,000	350,000	16,317	11,625	9,323	8,176	7,403
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel MT*	740,000	337,000	17,200	12,254	9,827	8,618	8,047
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas MT	795,000	377,500	18,479	13,168	10,557	9,259	8,546
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	805,000	382,500	18,711	13,330	10,686	9,375	8,754
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas AT**	848,000	424,000	19,965	14,224	11,407	10,004	9,081
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel MT	935,000	447,500	21,733	15,483	12,416	10,889	10,167
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas AT**	980,000	490,000	23,220	16,543	13,265	11,835	10,940
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas AT**	1,180,000	590,000	24,583	17,318	13,889	12,181	11,114
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD AT	1,280,000	535,000	29,752	21,196	16,998	14,908	13,919

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## Mondragon; 86

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Cebu City passed away on Oct. 23 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Ligaya Arriola Mondragon; children Fe, Eric and Justice, and Gemma and Efren; grandchildren Ron, Bernadette and Chris Tiu, Raphael and Tina Mondragon, Regina Lila Cabrera and Noelle Zamora. His youngest daughter, Tata, passed on earlier. He will be laid to rest in Cebu City.

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Paracetamol tab 500 mg	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
<b>Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)</b>			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	2.60	6.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	5.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	2.30	25.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
<b>Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)</b>			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocysteine cap. 500 mg	2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocysteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	32.70	67.25	54.55/bot
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Loperamide cap. 2mg	1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

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The placards with slogans are miniature but there is nothing small about the message that these housewives are trying to bring to the Department of Trade and Industry during yesterday's rally organized by the militant women's group Gabriela. The protest rally in front of the DTI office in Makati was held to protest soaring prices of basic commodities.

REUTERS

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### Corrections

IN THE OCT. 17 issue, a Sunday Lifestyle article on Page F2—"Women of the year"—incorrectly attributed a distinction to Dr. Raquel B. del Rosario-Fortun. She is not the first woman pathologist in the country. Fortun believes the distinction belongs to Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza Guanzon, who wrote a research paper on "bungot" in 1917. Guanzon became the first professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of the Philippines in 1927-1933.

IN THE OCT. 21 issue, a news story on Page A3—"It will be QC jail for Alang Ang"—misstated that ousted President Joseph Estrada was arrested in January 2001. Estrada was arrested in April 2001.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lino, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocas Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: gerry@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

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### ADB/COFILCO SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FILIPINO CONSULTING SERVICES

Each year the Asian Development Bank (ADB) employs over 1000 consultants to carry out technical assistance activities and other operations in the Asian and Pacific Regions. Any individual consultant or consulting firm/organization from a member country of ADB can pursue these opportunities. It pays, however, to be well informed.

Where does one learn of upcoming loan or technical assistance activities? Why is an Expression of Interest important? What should a proposal include?

The ADB and the Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations (COFILCO) will be sponsoring a two day seminar on the Development of Filipino Consulting Services on 11-12 November 2004 at the Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Seminar aims to help Filipino Consultants, both firms and individuals, gain access to the ADB market for consulting services. The Seminar will be comprised of a variety of lectures on ADB policies and procedures in the procurement of consulting services, starting from registration of consultants to the evaluation of technical and financial proposals and contract negotiations using the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method, the default mode of consultant selection adopted by ADB.

The Seminar will be capped by the presentation of COFILCO's Registration and Accreditation Systems, which Filipino consultants, both firms and individuals, have to comply with if

they wish to pursue government-funded development projects. Accreditation of consultants has become mandatory as a result of the recent passage of Republic Act No. 9134, The Government Procurement Reform Act, and Executive Order No. 278, Guidelines for Project Loan Negotiations and Packaging of Government Foreign-Assisted Infrastructure Projects. Seminar participants will also be given copies of the recently approved Standard Contract for Consulting Services, which contains specific provisions for ADB, World Bank, and JBIC-funded projects.

The Seminar is open to all Filipino consulting firms and individuals in a fee of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000) for those belonging to COFILCO member organizations and Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P4,500) for non-members. The Seminar fee includes meals and snacks for two days and a conference kit containing relevant ADB information materials. A 10% discount will be applied on payments received on or before 2 November 2004.

Interested parties are requested to make reservations at the COFILCO Secretariat through:

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# Kuwait asked to stop Iraq-bound RP drivers

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday he is asking Kuwait not to let Filipino workers in that country cross over to find work in Iraq due to the danger there.

"This is not the time to let Filipino drivers and other (overseas workers) go to Iraq because the situation is very fluid," he said, following Kuwait's decision last week to lift a ban against foreign workers crossing its border to Iraq.

Romulo had sent a note verbale to the Kuwaiti government to voice his concern over the implications of the Kuwaiti decision on the safety of Filipinos. He dispatched Ambassador Roy Cimatu to Kuwait to press for a reconsideration.

Romulo said yesterday that Iraq's other neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, had been "holding so far" on the government's request to stop Filipinos from sneaking into the war-

tom Iraq through their borders.

"It's their prerogative, but we're appealing to them [to maintain the ban] because of our experience, because of what's happening in Iraq," he said at a press briefing.

But another official, who asked not to be named, voiced fears that Kuwait's decision to lift the ban would set a precedent.

The official said that there was a growing consensus among Iraq's neighboring countries that it was Iraq's responsibility, not theirs, to man its borders and stop foreign workers from sneaking into its territory.

Romulo said he had directed Ricardo Endaya, charge d'affaires in Baghdad, to meet with his counterparts from other countries and "solidify their commitment" and if possible, hammer out an agreement to impose the ban.

"We're trying to get an agreement not to allow Filipinos to en-

ter Iraq," he said.

Romulo appealed to other countries, including Kuwait, to hold the ban until after the national elections are held in Iraq in late January next year when the volatile situation is expected to stabilize.

"This is just temporary. The situation will ease up after the elections in January," he

said. "After that, we can revisit Iraq."

The government imposed a ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq and requested Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to stop Filipinos from crossing into Iraq in July after Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was taken hostage by Iraqi militants. With an AP report

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## FAMILY PLANNING

## When 'natural' is unnatural

By Blanche S. Rivera

NATURAL family planning may be unnatural, after all.

An expert said yesterday that NFP, which the government is promoting, is very difficult for Filipino couples to practice because of the physiological sacrifice and behavioral change it requires.

Ric Gonzales, medical adviser of The Social Acceptance Project-Family Planning (TSAP-FP), said that NFP compels couples to abstain from sexual intercourse at a time when the body is craving for it.

Gonzales, a gynecologist and former director of the Fabella Hospital and the East Avenue Medical Center, said that a woman's body wants sex precisely during the fertile period.

"During this fertile period, women are prepared for a good sexual intercourse... and what NFP is saying is to abstain from having sex during this time," Gonzales said.

"It is unfair to NFP to call it unnatural. To avoid being confrontational, I use the term unphysiological," he said.

Gonzales, however, was quick to say that on the other hand, this abstinence tends to bond couples because it allows them to "enter into a state of negotiations."

"If you do NFP couples are allowed to have sex when the woman is unprepared for it. That's why it is important for males during this safe period to be romantic with their wives," he said.

Less than one percent of couples practice NFP. About 42 percent of Filipinos use contraceptives while some 2.5 million women do not use any family planning methods even if they say they want to space their births or limit the number of children.

The National Health and Demographic Survey last year showed that only 27 percent of women know when their fertile period is.

"This is an issue that is very important for NFP. Most women cannot predict their cycle.

If they don't know their cycle, they can't identify their fertile period, and this is important for abstinence," Gonzales said.

The TSAP, a major undertaking of the US-AID-funded Academy for Educational Development, is working with the Department of Health and other reproductive health advocates on the family planning hotline.

Gonzales noted that many of the questions from the hotline callers concerned fertility awareness. Some of the callers were males who did not want to get their partners pregnant.

DOH medical specialist Lourdes Paulino, officer-in-charge of the DOH Office on Women's Health, said that contraceptives were for couples who could not abstain all the time.

She said that the DOH door-to-door family planning campaign set early next year would focus on fertility awareness, especially among women in the rural areas.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has said that the Arroyo government stands pat on its decision to promote NFP and recognize artificial methods.

Dayrit said that family planning should be seen by Filipinos as part of responsible parenthood and not as a means to control population.

## Cebu prosecutors told to stay put

By Philip C. Tubexa

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday rejected the bid of Cebu prosecutors handling the murder case of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco to back out of the case.

Gonzalez said he rejected the move of City Prosecutor Cesar Tajanlangit and Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Vicente Mañalac to withdraw from the case since this would set a bad precedent.

"I will not allow that. If every prosecutor inhibits himself because of criticism, no prosecutor would be left. This is not a good precedent," Gonzalez said.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac had asked the Department of Justice to send to Cebu a special prosecution team to handle the case to avoid being accused of being biased in favor of the suspect, Michael Pavila, a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), headed by cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

However, Gonzalez said he wanted the case to proceed in Cebu with the prosecutors handling it. He said he would just send a state prosecutor from Manila to monitor developments.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac announced their plan to withdraw on Saturday, a day after lawyer Gloria Dalawampu, who was hand-picked by the Bacolod family to take over from Yongco as private prosecutor in the Ecleo parricide case, also withdrew from the case against the alleged gunman in the Yongco murder case.

At the time of her death, Yongco was the private prosecutor in the parricide case against Ecleo for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, fueling allegations that Ecleo had a hand in her murder.

Yongco, 37, was shot four times by a lone gunman at around 8:45 a.m. of Oct. 11 at her office, located at the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera, Cebu. She died a few minutes later at the Perpetual Succor Hospital.

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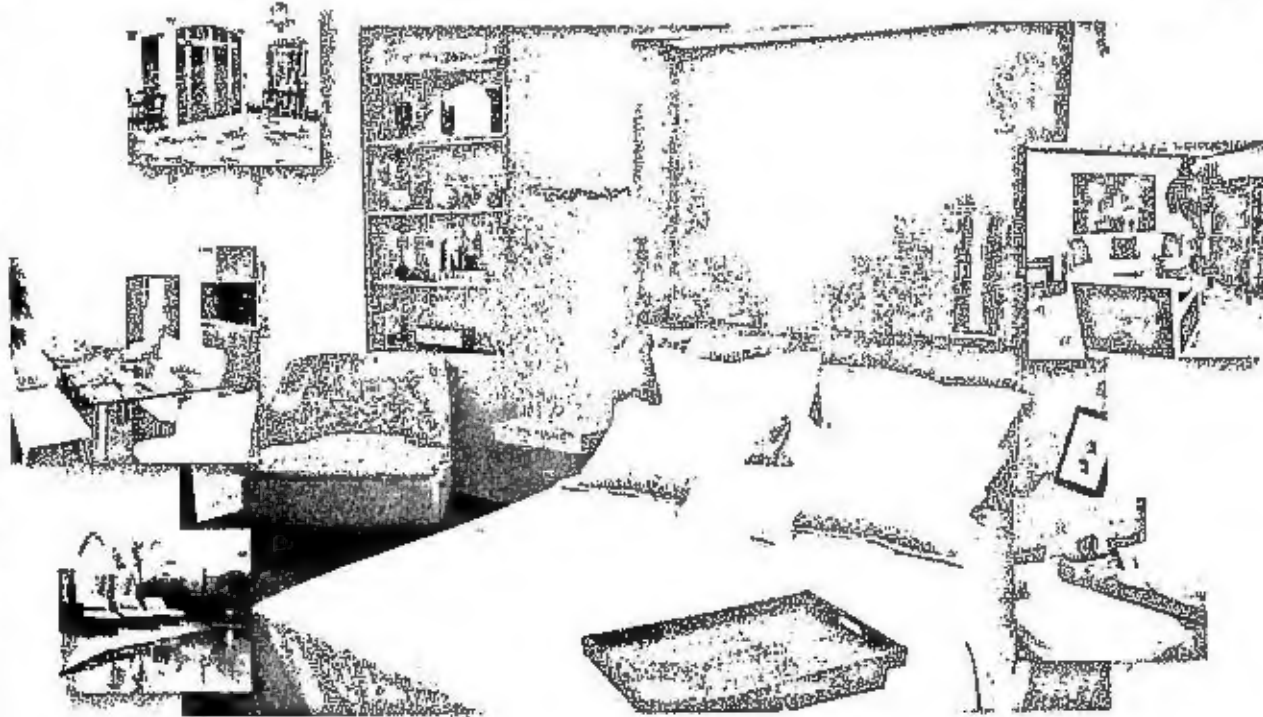
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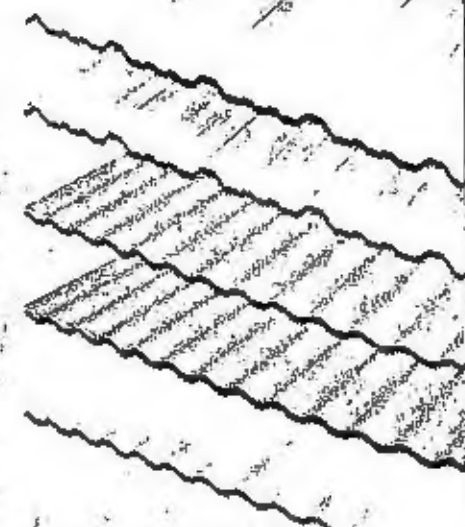
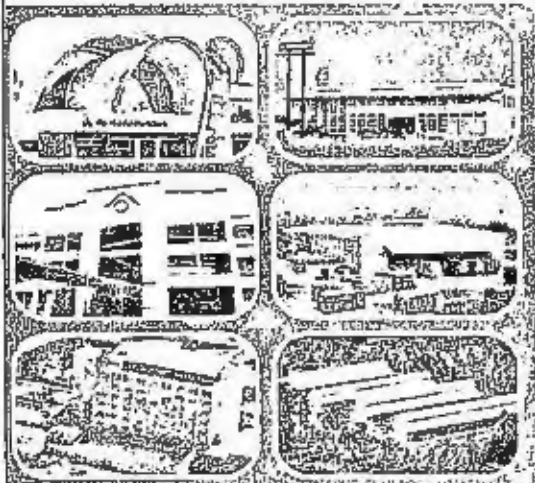
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# Malacca Straits pirates release 2 RP seamen

By TJ Burgonio

THE TWO Filipino seamen who were seized from their tugboat and taken hostage by pirates in the Malacca Straits early this month were released last week, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo announced yesterday.

Paterno Dionaldo and Sofronio Lacno, captain and chief engineer, respectively,

of the MV Erna, were freed following negotiations between their employer, Singapore-based Kasel Salvage Pte. Ltd., and their captors.

Romulo said the two had talked to their families in Manila following their release.

"Captain Dionaldo and engineer Lacno said they were a bit shaken, but otherwise were doing well," Romulo said in a press briefing.

He said he was not aware if ransom had been paid by their employer which handled the negotiations.

After their release, Dionaldo and Lacno were placed under the custody of the marine police in Belawan, Indonesia, and then handed over to the Indonesian-based agents of Kasel Salvage.

"They are now in a hotel in Medan, Indonesia, and are being prepared to be

flown to Singapore where the headquarters of Kasel is located. They are expected to arrive in Singapore today," Romulo said.

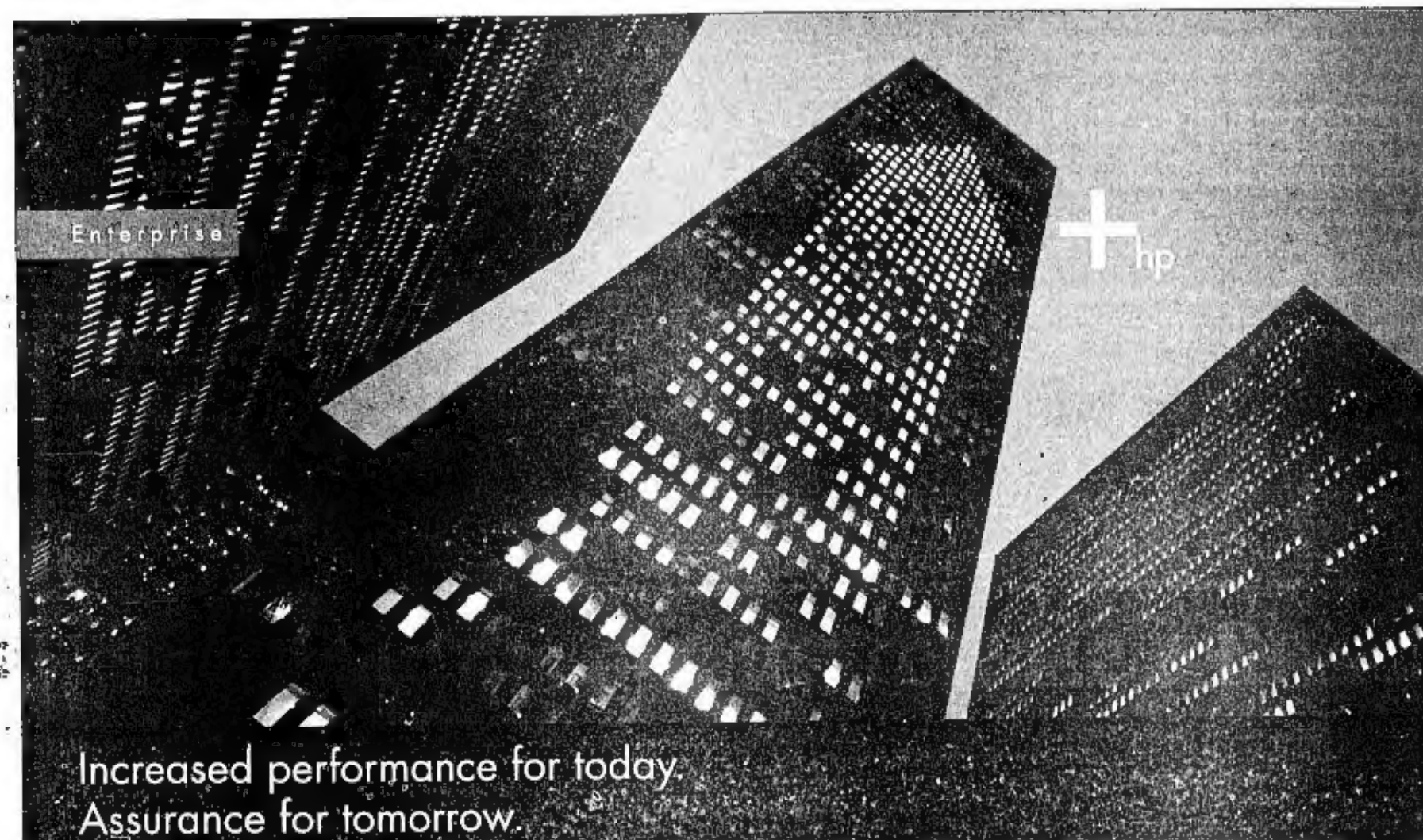
Heavily armed pirates boarded the Erna on Oct. 2 at 6:20 p.m. The tugboat was towing a crane barge through the straits when the pirates attacked.

The next day, another group of pirates attacked the tugboat but nobody was hurt. The eight other Filipino crew members of

the tug were flown home to Manila.

Romulo expressed gratitude to Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia for helping secure the release of the hostages.

"I also reiterate the Philippine government's commitment to increase cooperation with our Southeast Asian neighbors to combat piracy and make our sea lanes safer and more secure to enhance maritime cooperation and international trade," he said.



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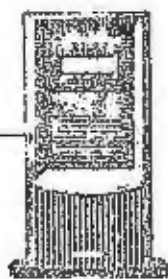
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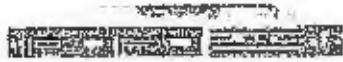
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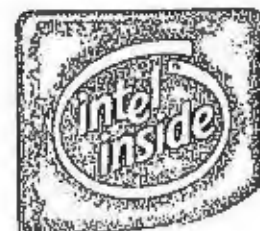
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1st Reading: Eph 6:1-9  
Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'"

Then you will say: 'We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

### Commentary

In reply to a student who asked him how to study, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote a wonderful booklet. In one passage he distinguished between "curiosity" and "studiosity."

"How many will be saved?" the disciples of Jesus wanted to know. He didn't answer their question. Instead he told them how they themselves might be saved. Similarly when he was talking about the destruction of the Temple, all they wanted to know was, "When is it going to happen?" (Mt 24:3). He didn't answer that question either. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (Jn 6:52). No answer. "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked (Jn 3:4). No answer. There must be a message in that.

No doubt curiosity is a good thing; cattle sheep and pigs have hardly any. It makes us different from them, open somehow. But we limit ourselves if we are never more than curious about anything. If we try to keep everything "out there," not affecting ourselves in any practical way. Then it is a refusal of "studiosity": depth and wisdom. It is better to curb it than not in order to close that gap that separates us from the beasts, but in order to open our spirit in a still deeper way. Jesus ignored questions that came from mere curiosity.

He responded to the question by saying what we should do to be saved. He said it is a narrow door. If he had said, "It's dead easy, don't worry, relax," no one, or very few, would consider it worth lifting a finger for. Anything that comes cheap, or for nothing, must be worthless. Anything of real value requires everything of us.

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**CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)**—Abuse of superior strength)—The aggravating circumstance of abuse of superior strength necessitates a showing of the relative disparity in the physical characteristics of the aggressor and the victim such as age, gender, physical size and strength. The killing of Rosemarie was committed with abuse of superior strength. As found by the court a quo, two grown-up men against a young fragile woman whose ability to defend herself had been effectively restrained revealed a shocking inequality of physical strength. The victim was much weaker in constitution and could not have possibly defended herself from her stronger assailants. Such disparity was manifest in the contusions in the chest and hands, wounds on the fingers, a stab wound on the left side of the face and multiple fractures in the ribs of the victim. The abuse of superior strength was obvious in the way Rosemarie was mercilessly beaten to a pulp. The killing of Rosemarie was thus correctly qualified to murder by the abuse of superior strength, a circumstance specifically pleaded in the information and proved beyond reasonable doubt. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Corona, People vs. Dacillo, G. R. No. 149368, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VELTA



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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## UN: Iraqi rebels may have missing weapons

VIENNA—The UN nuclear agency has warned that insurgents in Iraq may have obtained nearly 400 tons of missing explosives that can be used in the kind of car bomb attacks that have targeted US-led coalition forces for months.

Diplomats questioned why the United States didn't do more to secure the former Iraqi military installation that had housed the explosives, which they say posed a well-known threat of being looted. Others criticized the United States for not allowing full international inspections to resume after the March 2003 invasion.

US officials played down the significance of the missing weapons, but Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry accused US President George W. Bush of "incredible incompetence" and his campaign said the administration "must answer for what may be the most grave and catastrophic mistake in a tragic series of blunders in Iraq."

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei reported the disappearance to the UN Security Council on Monday, two weeks after he said Iraq told the nuclear agency that 377 US tons of explosives had vanished from the al-Qaqaa facility south of Baghdad as a result of "theft and looting... due to lack of security."

Al-Qaqaa is near Yussifiyah, an area rife with ambush attacks. An Associated Press Television News crew that drove past the compound Monday saw no visible security at the gates of the site, a jumble of low-slung, yellow-colored storage buildings that appeared deserted.

"The most immediate concern here is that these explosives could

have fallen into the wrong hands," IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said.

The agency first placed a seal over al-Qaqaa storage bunkers holding the explosives in 1991 as part of UN sanctions that ordered the dismantlement of Iraq's nuclear program after the Gulf War.

IAEA inspectors last saw the explosives in January 2003 when they took an inventory and placed fresh seals on the bunkers, Fleming said. Inspectors visited the site again in March 2003, but didn't view the explosives because the seals were not broken, she said.

Nuclear agency experts pulled out of Iraq just before the US-led invasion later that month, and have not yet been able to return for general inspections despite ElBaradei's repeated urging that they be allowed to finish their work. Although IAEA inspectors have made two trips to Iraq since the war at US

requests, Russia and other Security Council have pressed for their full-time return—so far unsuccessfully.

US defense department spokesperson Bryan Whitman said US-led forces searched the al-Qaqaa facility after the invasion.

"Coalition forces were present in the vicinity at various times during and after major combat operations," he said. "The forces searched 32 bunkers and 87 other buildings at the facility, but found no indicators of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). While some explosive material was discovered, none of it carried IAEA seals."

IAEA analysts since have viewed satellite photographs of al-Qaqaa, and only two storage bunkers showed damage that may have occurred in bombing during the war, an agency official said. The other bunkers were intact, and the photos showed no evidence of a crater that would

have been created if bombing runs had caused the explosives to blow up, the official said.

Saddam Hussein's regime used al-Qaqaa as a key part of its effort to build a nuclear bomb. Although the missing materials are conventional explosives known as HMX and RDX, the Vienna-based IAEA became involved because HMX is a "dual use" substance powerful enough to ignite the fissile material in an atomic bomb and set off a nuclear chain reaction.

Both are key components in plastic explosives such as C-4 and Semtex, which are so powerful that Libyan terrorists needed just 0.45 kg to blow up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 170 people.

Insurgents targeting coalition forces in Iraq have made wide spread use of plastic explosives in a bloody spate of car bomb attacks. Officials were unable to link the

missing explosives directly to the recent car bombings, but the revelations that they could have fallen into enemy hands caused a stir in the last week of the US presidential campaign.

"How did they fail to secure nearly 380 tons of known, deadly explosives despite clear warnings from the International Atomic Energy Agency to do so?" senior Kerry adviser Joe Lockhart said in a statement.

"These explosives can be used to blow up airplanes, level buildings, attack our troops and detonate nuclear weapons," Lockhart said. "The Bush administration knew where this stockpile was, but took no action to secure the site."

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration's first concern was whether the disappearance constituted a nuclear proliferation threat. He said it did not. A

## Clinton, Kerry gang up on Bush

WASHINGTON—Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. John Kerry ganged up on President George W. Bush on the campaign trail on Monday, with Clinton warning Bush wants to scare voters and Kerry slamming Bush's "incompetence" in not protecting tons of missing explosives in Iraq.

Bush, with former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at his side, criticized Democrat Kerry's strategy of "pessimism and retreat" and told voters in Colorado that "in every critical respect, my opponent and I see the war on terror differently."

The potential balance of power on the Supreme Court moved front and center with news that Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and is in the hospital after undergoing a tracheotomy.

Rehnquist, 80, the leader of the court's conservative majority, is expected back on the bench next week. But his illness reminded voters a new president could be asked to fill several vacancies of retiring justices on the closely divided court.

"We learned today that Justice Rehnquist is ill," Kerry told black ministers in a conference call. "We know that two or three justices will be retiring in the next years. The Supreme Court is at stake."

With eight days left in a neck-and-neck race

for the White House, both sides pulled out the big political guns in a final bid to energize base supporters and attract undecided swing voters in the last few run-up battleground states.

An enthusiastic and noticeably thinner Clinton, hitting the campaign trail seven weeks after heart bypass surgery, told thousands of cheering supporters in a downtown Philadelphia park that Bush was trying to scare them.

"The other side, they are trying to scare the undecided voters about Senator Kerry and they are trying to scare the decided voters away from the polls," Clinton said, adding, "their plan is more of the same" on lost jobs, lost health-care benefits and rising budget deficits.

"If one candidate is trying to scare you and the other is trying to get you to think, if one candidate is appealing to your fears and the other one is appealing to your hopes, you better vote for the one who wants you to think and hope," he said.

Kerry strategists hope Clinton can help energize Democratic base supporters, particularly black voters who will be crucial to pulling out a win in swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida. Clinton headed to Florida after the Philadelphia rally for a solo appearance on Kerry's behalf.

"If this isn't good for my heart, I don't know what is," Clinton told the raucous crowd. Reuters

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**ROME**  
A worker cleans a statue of the God of Rome's famous Tiber river on the Campidoglio square, designed by Michelangelo, in Rome. On Friday in Rome, the Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers of 29 European countries will meet at the Campidoglio to participate in the ceremony of the signature of the Treaty and Final Act that will establish a Constitution for Europe. REUTERS

## Rain, cold threaten Japan quake recovery efforts

OSAKA, Japan—More than 100,000 exhausted survivors of Japan's deadliest earthquake in a decade woke up in makeshift shelters for a third day on Tuesday as rain threatened to hamper relief efforts and trigger further landslides.

Aftershocks continued to rattle rural Niigata prefecture, 250 km north of Tokyo, after the first big tremor on Saturday that killed at least 25 people and injured more than 2,700. Three people, including two children, were missing.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was due to visit the area later in the day but called off a separate trip to a typhoon-stricken area of western Japan.

While the number and strength of aftershocks was starting to taper off, the authorities warned that it was still too early to relax and urged caution around quake-weakened buildings.

"I'm really tired. I want to get home and really rest," said a man at one evacuation center, where people had spent the night crammed together sleeping on the floor.

Saturday's initial earthquake, with magnitude of 6.8, was the deadliest in Japan since the Kobe earthquake killed more than 6,400 people in 1995, and reminded Tokyo's 12 million residents that they too are vulnerable to a major quake.

Tens of thousands of people have already spent three nights in evacuation centers or in

the open as the temperature fell below 10 degrees Celsius.

The temperature was likely to fall further, with snow possibly mixing with rain in mountainous areas at night, a meteorological agency official said.

Many complained about a lack of food, but an official in Ojiya, the hardest hit town, told national broadcaster NHK that supplies were now sufficient. What was really needed, he said, were diapers, wet tissues and disinfectant.

Some slept in cars with engines running but many petrol stations were closed due to a lack of electricity to run pumps.

Others made the best of things by spending the night in a greenhouse to keep warm. Some camped in parking lots.

Rain was forecast to fall throughout much of the day and officials warned that could force more people to evacuate.

"Even a little rain at this point could really raise the danger of landslides," an official at an emergency center set up by the Niigata local government said.

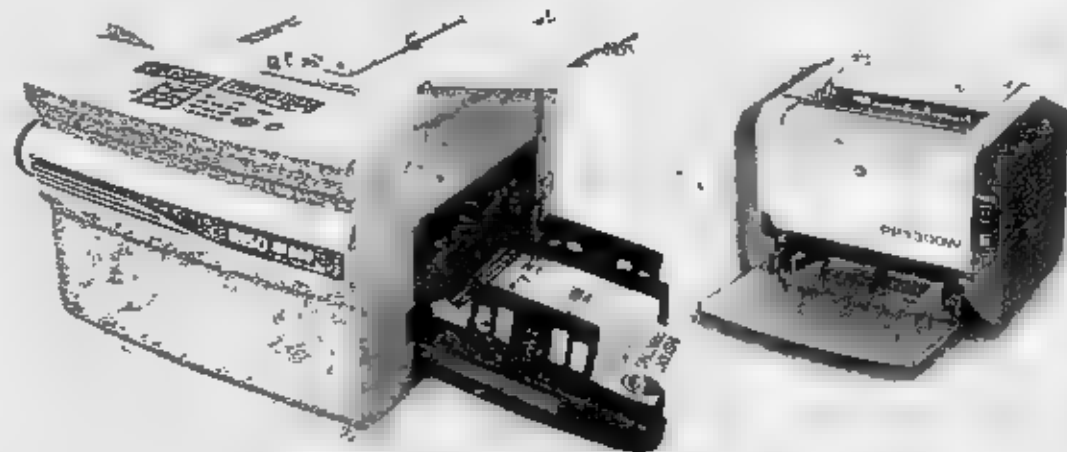
As of Tuesday, the number of people evacuated had risen to 101,900, Kyodo news agency said.

A forecast fall in temperature below 10C raised concerns of health problems among the evacuees, many of whom are elderly. Reuters

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# South Korea tightens security after breach at border

DONGDUCHON, South Korea—South Korea mounted roadblocks and increased security along the Demilitarized Zone frontier with North Korea on Tuesday after a night patrol found a hole cut in a border fence, South Korean officials said.

A gap in the wire could mean North Korean agents had been in-

filtrated into the South on the day US Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting Seoul and on the 25th anniversary of the assassination of South Korean President Park Chung-hee.

Yet South Korean financial markets barely reacted, and Powell took a relatively relaxed view, too.

"It did not come up in our dis-

cussions," he told reporters.

"I got word earlier this morning and we confirmed a few moments ago that there is an apparent small breach in the wire system coming south out of the DMZ and it's being looked into."

Security experts noted there were easier ways to sneak into the South than through a hole in the world's

most fortified border. Yet, on the peninsula, where the Koreans face off with a combined 1.8 million troops, such incidents are taken seriously.

Extra armed soldiers and police inspected every truck and checked car drivers at established and new checkpoints north of Uijongbu, between Seoul and the border.

Armored vehicles stood at some

roadblocks and machineguns could be seen on top of buildings in Dongduchon, where the US Army's 2nd Infantry Division is located. Further north, units searched the craggy mountains that cover much of the region.

A defense ministry spokesperson told reporters the South Korean military could, if necessary,

mobilize reserve forces along the border, which has bisected the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace treaty.

"We are stepping up our security," said Hwang Jung-sun, the ministry's deputy director of operations. "We can't reveal details about the investigation for security reasons." Reuters

## Vatican lays out teaching against war, abortion

VATICAN CITY—A Vatican handbook has laid out Roman Catholic Church teaching questioning preventive war and denouncing the "horrendous crime" of abortion. But Vatican officials sidestepped questions on whether the war in Iraq was illegal or if Catholics can vote for candidates who back laws permitting abortion.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls quickly intervened at a news conference Monday when a top Vatican cardinal was asked if the faithful can cast ballots for a candidate who supports legalized abortion. "The Holy See never gets involved in electoral or political questions directly," he said.

US Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, is a Catholic who has said that while personally opposed to abortion, he upholds the right of women to have one.

Pope John Paul II has vigorously championed the Vatican's long-standing opposition to abortion, which was denounced as a "horrendous crime" in the Vatican document released Monday.

"Far from being a right, it is a sad phenomenon," it said.

Some US churchmen, such as St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke, have said Kerry should be denied the sacrament of Communion.

Navarro-Valls said bishops could, if they desired, weigh in on campaign issues to "illuminate the consciences of the faithful with ethical elements so they can make a judgment" in elections.

Officials at the news conference described the 524-page compilation of doctrine as a kind of handbook which could help business, political and cultural leaders.

Appearing to break no new ground, the volume quoted extensively from, and offered reflections on, writings and speeches by Pope John Paul II and previous pontiffs on matters including preventive war, terrorism, the death penalty, immigration, workers' rights, poverty, globalization, free markets and human rights.

Under the heading "legitimate defense," the compendium stated that "engaging in a war is not a crime, but it is a crime if the attack is imminent cannot fail to raise serious moral and juridical questions."

Arguing that the war in Iraq was necessary, the administration of US President George W. Bush said in the run-up to the conflict that Iraq harbored weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have turned up.

In apparent reference to the United Nations, the document said "international legitimacy for the use of armed forces, on the basis of rigorous assessment and with well-founded motivations, can only be given by the decision of a competent body that identifies specific situations as threats to peace and authorizes an intrusion into the sphere of autonomy usually reserved for a state."

The former Vatican envoy to the United Nations, Cardinal Renato Martino, was asked if "in hands like" the US-led war against Iraq would be "illegal" in the eyes of the church.

The cardinal replied: "Did you read the address of the Pope to President Bush? Read it again." AP

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# New Indon leader may ban Jemaah Islamiyah

JAKARTA—Indonesia will outlaw an al-Qaida-linked group blamed for deadly bombings in Southeast Asia if its existence can be proved and that its members are involved in terrorist activities, the new president said.

In an interview with Time magazine, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would review steps being taken to deal with terrorism and with the Jemaah Islamiyah group.

This review would include Islamic boarding schools suspected of having terror ties, he said.

His cautious comments on Jemaah Islamiyah may disappoint Western governments, who have no doubt about the network's presence in the world's most populous Muslim nation and who want the former general to confront terrorism head on.

"After the review, if there are explanations and proof that it is an organization that exists in Indonesia, and if it is legally proven that its members are involved in terrorist activities, then it will be declared a banned organization," said Yudhoyono, who made fighting terror a campaign priority.

Yudhoyono gave no details on how Jemaah Islamiyah's existence would be proven, and whether it would require a court ruling.

His comments come two days before a militant cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, faces trial on charges of leading Jemaah Islamiyah and involvement in the 2002 Bali blasts that killed 202 people and a strike at a luxury Jakarta hotel last year that killed 12.

Western countries and the United Nations have listed Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization. Banning the group would make it easier for Indonesia to make arrests and stem funding.

But the previous government, in which Yudhoyono was chief security minister until early this year, treaded carefully around the issue for fear of offending mainstream Muslims, partly because the term Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesian means Islamic community.

While Islamic groups have grown increasingly outraged at bomb attacks and accepted they are being carried out by Indonesians, memories also remain fresh of the persecution of Muslim leaders and activists by former President Suharto during 32 years of military-backed rule that ended in 1998.

Officials have also kept a hands-off approach to several conservative Islamic boarding schools, where some convicted bombers have studied and radical views are propagated.

Yudhoyono made clear the issue was sensitive. "This will require communication and the right approach so that law enforcement will not be misunderstood as the government doing something that is unfair toward certain individuals or religious schools," Yudhoyono said.

A number of Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah members have been convicted over the Bali bombings, but courts then did not make a point of trying to prove the existence of Jemaah Islamiyah, which wants to set up an austere Islamic state across Muslim areas of Southeast Asia. **Reuters**

## Howard sworn in for 4th term

CANBERRA—John Howard was sworn in Tuesday for his fourth term as Australia's prime minister at a ceremony in the official residence of the British queen's representative, Governor General Michael Jeffery.

Howard won an increased majority for his conservative coalition government at Oct. 9 elections at which the booming Australian economy took center stage.

The Howard administration took credit for driving down unemployment, inflation and interest rates during more than eight years in power and warned voters that Labor governments had a history of pushing interest rates higher.

A total of 30 ministers and 12 junior ministers known as parliamentary secretaries were sworn in by Jeffery.

Tuesday's ceremony was a reminder of Australia's links to the British monarchy, with ministers swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, the nation's formal head of state.

In December, the 65-year-old Howard will overtake Bob Hawke's record as the second-longest serving prime minister of eight years,

nine months and 10 days.

The longest serving national leader was Sir Robert Menzies, founder of Howard's Liberal Party, who lasted more than 18 years.

Meanwhile, Labor leader Mark Latham announced Tuesday his so-called shadow Cabinet of lawmakers assigned to develop policies and challenge government ministers.

He made the surprise move of placing two former foes in key economic portfolios. Wayne Swan became shadow treasurer and Stephen Smith shadow minister for industry, infrastructure and industrial relations.

Both men supported Latham's rival for the Labor leadership, Kim Beazley, late last year.

Latham said Labor had to improve its economic policy performance before the next election.

"This is the area where, whether we like it or not, the Australian people made a judgment that our credentials weren't strong enough," Latham told reporters.

Both Swan and Smith guaranteed they would not challenge Latham's leadership during the next three-year term. **AP**

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## Consolation prize

**W**HEN Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, "I don't think the congressmen realize that what they are investigating is [Major Gen.] Carlos Garcia's version of their own pork barrel," he had a point. The point primarily involves perception, but it's also an institutional one. Lacson told the press: "Assuming the allegations against General Garcia are true—that he took commissions from suppliers—what makes the difference between a general receiving commissions from a congressman or a senator receiving commissions from suppliers and contractors? It's the same banana."

This is Lacson's point on perception: the public is not giving credit to the House of Representatives for looking into the accusations concerning Garcia. His institutional point is also fair: there is no difference, morally or, it can be argued, even legally, between a general skimming off the top and being on the take, and a legislator receiving commissions and bribes. Both represent people in authority violating their duties and acting irresponsibly. Both involve people on the public payroll breaking the law.

He also has a point in suggesting that his legislative colleagues "take a good look at themselves in the mirror before asking questions." But is it correct to suggest, as his statements imply, that Congress has no business mounting hearings on the Garcia case?

Congressional hearings are not part of the process of meting out justice. That is clear. Congress investigates only in aid of legislation. Does a hearing in aid of legislation include the congressional hearings that have taken on the characteristics of a fishing expedition?

A fishing expedition, in the sense used by media, is a hearing that attempts to trip up witnesses so that they will come up with information that incriminates either the witnesses or other people. It is a hearing undertaken not to verify facts for the purpose of arriving at informed legislation, but rather to come up with information for political purposes. If the congressmen, for example, who grilled Garcia had gotten him to confess, it would not have helped legislation, although it would certainly have made headlines and perhaps even helped the investigation into his actions.

However, only a court martial and the Office of the Ombudsman can actually do something about Garcia, and only (in the case of a court martial) after a trial by his peers or (in the case of the Ombudsman) a trial before a civilian judge. Congress in and of itself cannot mount either a criminal or administrative investigation or prosecution before the courts.

This is actually the essential point of Lacson's comments. It is a point that has been repeatedly made concerning Congress' use—and abuse—of its authority to hold hearings in aid of legislation. Lacson is fortunate that his colleagues in Congress have been tardy in pointing out the many ways their hearings could have actually aided legislation: for example, in amending the Articles of War, or in drafting a law putting the comptrollership of the Armed Forces in civilian hands, as has been suggested.

This only goes to show that Lacson's suspicion that his congressional peers are only interested in grandstanding, and not justice, might be true. It also serves to fortify the original points of Lacson.

But whether or not the House of Representatives didn't really mean to investigate in aid of legislation, the fact is, in however small a way, the hearings did help to show just how serious the case against Garcia is.

This has nothing to do with the fitness of individual legislators to make inquiries. Rooting out sinners does not require saints. Specifically, since the law is impersonal, its enforcement and operation do not require the enforcers to be law abiding. What it does mean is that the moral aspects of the law are subverted when insincerity and even guilt are suspected of those who try to wield the law.

This is where the concept of moral ascendancy comes in. The law would be much more effective if those who make the laws and enforce the laws are not suspected of ignoring the laws. As things stand, though, better crooks running after another crook, than no one running after crooks at all.



## Down with irresponsible pet owners!

### AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



(Compassion and Responsibility for Animals), an NGO, has documented cases where policemen and barangay tanods were the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

Ironically, the bond between man and dog goes back 12,000 years. Since humans domesticated dogs, they are most happy when they are in our company. Their loyalty, love and trust are their gifts to us. There are many stories of dogs saving their masters' lives. The animals have been used as war dogs, working dogs, seeing-eye dogs, bomb- and drug-sniffing dogs, search dogs, etc. As pets, scientific studies have proven that they reduce loneliness, depression and stress. Medically, they have been introduced as companions to patients in hospital wards and in homes for the elderly all over the world.

So why are we being cruel to them and killing them? Because of ignorance and lack of compassion, primarily. And in the worst irony of all, because governments think they are doing a good deed in rounding them up and killing them. It is to prevent the spread of rabies, a deadly and almost always fatal disease spread by the bite of a dog and other mammals. The risk of rabies in the Philippines is the fourth highest in the world. And because the number of stray dogs is increasing due to many irresponsible owners, local governments believe they are reducing the risk of rabies by killing stray dogs.

This is wrong on two counts. First, a study made in 1998 showed that 95 percent of dog bites did not come from street dogs but from those which had owners. Dogs are territorial and street dogs have no territories. It is the pet dogs that protect their territories by ag-

gressive behavior.

Second, killing dogs (and cats) will not reduce the stray population if we do not reduce the number of irresponsible pet owners. These owners allow their pets to breed indiscriminately and then give away the puppies and kittens in staggering numbers. More often, kittens are simply abandoned on sidewalks or vacant lots. These have hazardous lives, and are sometimes squashed by vehicles. Those that survive grow up by scavenging for food in garbage cans, wracked by disease and starvation, and breed more strays that, in turn, breed more.

Two unaltered dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. For cats, the number is much higher. There should be a law that punishes throwing away or abandoning kittens.

Filipinos usually take home puppies and kittens because they are cute. But once they grow up and cease to be cute and, worse, show signs of illness, they are turned out on the streets where they unwittingly compromise the health of the whole neighborhood.

As Cara Phils said, "In our country dogs provide an important sense of security. However, here we find the paradox of people who don't really like dogs and yet will keep them to guard their homes. As a rule, these people are neither caring nor responsible owners. It is these owners' dogs that are usually allowed to scavenge on the streets for food and routinely let out to urinate and defecate on public property. As a result, this human irresponsibility leads to these dogs creating a public health hazard."

For many in our country, the dog is viewed not as a companion but as a necessary evil, so that neither time nor money is invested in ensuring good health.

Since dogs and cats are treated as dispensable and replaceable commodities, the abandoning of sick or unwanted dogs and cats is done with impunity. Invariably a neighbor's dog or cat will also have puppies and kittens and these will be given away. So the cycle of irresponsible ownership continues.

## Solutions

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



it. It will strengthen it by cleansing it of its dregs. That presumes the muck ends with Garcia and doesn't flow upstream. Indeed, that presumes the muck ends with the generals and doesn't flow upward to their commander in chief.

As it is, GMA's culpability in this is patent, and not just by the principle of command responsibility. Her contribution to the corruption is direct. More immediately, it was her "revolving door" policy that made it possible. It produced four chiefs of staff in the same number of years, each one retiring with a pabon that could ransom a dozen kidnapped Chinese. Either GMA turned a blind eye to the practice or she actively abetted it. The latter is not unthinkable, given that she came to power through extra-constitutional means and has been vulnerable to uprisings, military or not.

On a broader and deeper level—and this one bears repeating again and again—it was her "war against terror" that catapulted corruption in the military to breathtaking heights. Especially in the first year after 9/11, when she echoed George W. Bush's line of "you are with me or against me," no one could question what government did, least of all its military operations. To do so was to be held up in derision as a terrorist-coddler or accused of treason. Fighting terrorism justified everything, including the curtailment of due process.

It was the culture of secrecy and paranoia unleashed by the "war against terror" that made the shit hit the fan, or unbridled corruption to hit the barracks. Until the US invasion of Iraq came along to disillusion even Filipinos, the last bastion of George W.'s imperial ambition, the generals were pretty much untouch-

able. No, they were pretty much infallible—what they said was ex-cathedra.

What will strengthen the military today is not just the court martial of Garcia, though I'd be first to applaud if that should happen and is prosecuted with zeal. Who knows? Maybe Garcia would be persuaded to talk then, especially if a verdict of guilty carries with it not just a dozen push-ups but a dozen rifles lined up in a firing squad. But more than this, what will strengthen the military, or indeed the country itself, is GMA apologizing to the country for having dragged it down the drain with her military adventurism. A military adventurism that gave new lease on life on the praetorian mentality of the men in uniform and made mutinies, quite apart from runaway corruption, possible.

What will strengthen the military is reducing the size of the AFP to a level that matches national priorities and giving it only the budget it deserves. None of this means overlooking terrorism or neglecting national security. All of this means fighting terrorism in the only way that it can be fought, with the judicious combination of intelligence, diplomacy and force, and by assuring national security in the only way it can be assured, by empowering the people so that they can have the means, opportunity and motive to defend themselves. As this country's experience shows, a huge military never combats terrorism or oppression anyway. It only adds to them.

Of course, we should try the corrupt generals (and civilian officials), and punish them when they are found guilty. Life doesn't go on with justice, a nation doesn't move on without rewarding the just and punishing the guilty. But we want permanent solutions to the corruption in the military, let's cut it down to size, physically and ideologically, to reflect its true place in our lives. Our greatest enemies today are not terrorists and communists, they are hunger and corruption. Hunger terrorizes and corruption subverts.

Everything else is just *more-moro*. (My deepest apologies to Moros.)



**AFP placed under searing scrutiny**

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines has come under raking fire for alleged corruption following the disclosure that its former comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, had allegedly transferred about P44 million to his account in the United States and accumulated assets worth more than P50 million. Garcia faces a court martial, beginning on Friday, on general charges of unexplained wealth and corruption.

The disclosure has plunged the military into unprecedented turmoil. The Garcia scandal was followed by the privilege speech of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who revealed the mechanism of "institutionalized corruption" in the Armed Forces through the practice of "clearance and conversion"—a process presided over by what she called "Gang of 12," composed of general staff officers. The senator's speech piled up one shock after another, as it followed newspaper reports that alleged retiring AFP chiefs of staff received golden handshakes ranging from P100 million to P200 million each, drawn from the AFP's "centrally managed funds."

At no time in recent memory has the Armed Forces been more severely pummeled by corruption charges than it is today. The military's handling of public funds is under investigation by three bodies: the House of Representatives, the Ombudsman and the military court martial on the Garcia unexplained wealth case.

These inquiries are extraordinary events in that they have put the Armed Forces, the custodian of national security, under searing scrutiny for corruption, a malaise that is often associated with the civilian sector of public affairs. The Jose Pidal scandal that embroiled the first Arroyo administration before the last election is nothing compared with the military corruption controversy.

The gravity of these inquiries and their implication for the credibility of the Armed Forces as a key state institution that underpins political stability were correctly recognized by the former chief of

**ANALYSIS****Amando Doronila**

staff, retired Gen. Angelo Reyes, now interior secretary, and another retired chief of staff, Dionisio Santiago. A horrified General Santiago warned that the attacks on the military could result in destroying it. "This is too much already," he said. "They're trying to destroy the institution."

Echoing Santiago's concern, Reyes, whose own acquisition of assets has attracted scrutiny, told the House committees on national defense and banks that the allegations of corruption were undermining the foundations of the Armed Forces.

Although Reyes conceded that the congressional inquiry was in aid of legislation, he warned, "I feel that, as the proceedings have been going on, there are perceptions that imputations of irregularities are eroding an honorable profession, the profession of arms; that the institution of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the very institution that has been protecting the state and its people, is slowly being destroyed."

We should expect that more sordid details of corruption will surface in the court martial of Garcia, in the Ombudsman and in the House inquiry. With the bringing down of the Armed Forces to the ground of accountability, it has now joined the distinguished company of its civilian counterparts and other sectors of civil society. The inquiries show that the military is no longer a sacrosanct institution, immune from civil scrutiny, and untouchable because its monopoly of the means of state violence gives it the power of life and death over civilian regimes, threatened by civil unrest and disorder.

Santiago correctly put the controversy over alleged military corruption in this context: "All other institutions, media and Congress included, have their own share of bad eggs but we should never destroy the institution. We should isolate the bad eggs, punish them and improve the institution."

Isolate the bad eggs, is what exactly these disclosures in the court martial, the House hearings and the Ombudsman are trying to do, and the good sign is that the allegations are being substantiated by evidence, which is the way to incise the abscess that has infected the civil and political sector and which has now spread to the military. This is the first time that the military has been held accountable on such a scale since the Marcos regime, which pampered the Armed Forces and put it beyond civil scrutiny because he depended on it for regime support and survival.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to start the court martial of Garcia before he retires, has pledged there would be no whitewash in the prosecution of wrongdoers to allay fears that she might provoke a backlash from the military.

The trial of Garcia and the revelations in Congress have put the President on the spot, more than they have the military. They put to the test her political will to clean up corruption in both the civil and military sectors.

Allegations of irregularities in the handling of public funds tend to cast doubt on the Armed Forces' credentials as an important recruitment ground for political leadership. Since the Marcos regime, we have increasingly recruited from the military material for political leadership, the most prominent example being Gen. Fidel V. Ramos who won the presidency in 1992. The military has to clean up or be cleaned up in order to establish its credentials as a political recruitment institution with superior ethical standards than those of politicians. Civilian corruption had been used by mutinous officers to justify their coup attempts.

**From Paris to Greenhills**

TWO series of unfolding events in France and in the Philippines won't make it into front-page headlines but their outcomes can affect the lives of many people, for decades to come.

In France, effective Sept. 2, the government has banned the use of "overt" religious symbols in public schools, including Muslim headscarves for women (*hyab*), Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

In principle, the French ban is meant to uphold secularism but it is clear that the move, goaded on by the far right National Front party, is mainly targeting Muslims, with the argument that the headscarves represent Islamic fundamentalism (read terrorism).

Here at home, we also have a small storm brewing in the Greenhills district in San Juan, Metro Manila. I am referring to the opposition by some Greenhills residents and shop owners to the proposal to put up a *musallah* or Muslim prayer room in their shopping center. A resident told ABS-CBN news that a prayer room would turn Greenhills "into a haven of squatters, robbers and worse, terrorists," claiming this happened in Quiapo and Taguig after mosques were built there.

**PINOY KASI****Michael L. Tan**

Secularism

There is one stark similarity between the ban in French schools and the opposition to a *musallah* in Greenhills: bigotry, mainly targeting the Muslims and invoking the threat of terrorism. But there are differences in the way the prejudice is disguised.

In France, the ban on "overt" religious symbols invokes the principle of secularism, which the French have insisted on since the French Revolution in the 18th century. The Roman Catholic Church had been identified with the oppression of the French aristocracy and so secularism was intended to end the domination of the Catholics over the state. There was, too, the influence of the French enlightenment philosophers Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu who saw religion as divisive and intolerant.

The French debates have relevance to Filipinos. We also subscribe to the separation of Church and State. Last year, University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo issued a memo reminding faculty that the university, as a state institution, needed to remain neutral when it came to religion. Specifically, he pointed out that classes and other official functions were not to start off with a prayer or invocation. The memo came as a result of a law student's complaint that one faculty member had been starting her classes with a Catholic prayer.

I wrote about that memo some months back, expressing my agreement and arguing that it's not just in state universities but in any institution used by the public (for example, hospitals) where we need to maintain secularism, not in opposition to religion but, precisely, as a way of respecting religious freedom and the diversity of faiths.

Having said all this, I would disagree with the French government ban, which is so clearly instigated by a lack of understanding of the so-called religious symbols. First, a headscarf isn't going to stoke the flames of Islamic extremism any more than a large cross on a necklace would fan Catholic fanaticism.

Second, the French ban fails to see that the so-called religious symbols actually transcend faith. The *hyab* isn't just an expression of Islam; in fact, some of those who oppose the *hi-jab* see it more as a symbol of the oppression of women. Yet, Muslim women themselves will explain that the veils have many meanings, including an expression of one's identity. One Muslim woman anthropologist has even described the *burqa*—which covers the entire body, as "portable seclusion," giving a sense of protection from intrusive eyes, including those of religious conservatives. Underneath the *burqa*, Muslim women have been known to use cosmetics and wear high heels!

It's not surprising the French are now caught in a quagmire because the ban on religious symbols has been interpreted by one school to extend to Sikh turbans. Last week, when one school banned three Sikh boys from using their turbans, the parents brought the case to court. Again, there is a lack of cultural competence here, the inability to see the turbans not just as an expression of the Sikh religion but of a Sikh ethnic identity.

**Religious apartheid**

The issue then is one of cultural liberty, which the United Nations defines as the ability to practice one's own religion, to speak one's language, to celebrate one's ethnic heritage, "without fear of ridicule or punishment or diminished opportunity."

"Diminished opportunity" are the keywords here. In the Greenhills controversy, some Christians argue that a Muslim prayer room is inappropriate because the area is largely Catholic. But we forget that there are some 400 Muslim traders in the Greenhills Shopping Center. Islam requires prayer five times a day and the Muslims in Greenhills have been doing this in an empty space at the side of a building, a stone's throw away from a large Catholic chapel. A *musallah* would allow Muslims equal opportunities with Catholics to practice their religion in a more decent, secured space.

This is why I've always argued that UP despite its secular nature, must provide at least a *musallah* for its Muslim students, simply because we already have Catholic and Protestant churches within the campus.

Of course, the best solution to all this—whether in Greenhills or on UP campuses—is to have ecumenical rooms or buildings where people of all faiths can worship and reflect. You see such rooms in the world's major airports, a testimony to the multicultural age we live in.

Muslim traders are now found in the country's major urban centers and I've always felt their businesses are a good thing, a chance for Muslims and Christians to interact. I've talked with both Christian and Muslim business people in Greenhills, Quiapo, Baguio and they generally agree they are able to co-exist peacefully.

The absence of a *musallah* in Greenhills will only reinforce the tendency of Muslims to retreat into ghettos, practicing their faith apart from Christians. We are in a sense creating religious apartheid (an Afrikaans/Dutch word that means apart-ness), imposing our own mental *hyabs* on our Muslim brothers and sisters and keeping them mysterious, forbidding and threatening.

How do parents in France, and in the Philippines, explain to their children why there is this religious apartheid? At best, the next generation will shrug this off as ignorance. It could be worse though, as religious extremists capitalize on this apartheid to prove how religious minorities are persecuted. The next generation may yet reap a bitter harvest from our intolerance and bigotry.

**Bringing home HIV/AIDS**

OVERSEAS Filipino workers are among the "sectors" of society most vulnerable to HIV infection.

Their vulnerability stems not just from their occupation, such as the good number of migrant women workers involved in the sex and entertainment industry, but also from their living and working conditions. Lonely and homesick, isolated and coping with foreign languages, cultures and even religions, cut off from their social support system of family and friends, OFWs find themselves craving for companionship while at the same time suddenly liberated from the social strictures that once governed their behavior. Emotional vulnerability combined with sexual license give rise to many risks, not least of which are sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

"In a country that has a nascent HIV/AIDS epidemic, almost one-third (of people testing positive for HIV) are former migrant workers," notes Maria Lourdes Manio, executive director of Action for Health Initiatives (Achieve) Inc., in her foreword to the book "For Good." "While this high figure may be a result of increased mandatory HIV testing of migrant workers, it gives evidence to an emerging concern, not just locally but globally. How does HIV/AIDS affect the lives of Filipino migrant workers? What do they go through when they get infected? What is the impact on those infected and affected by it? How do they cope, survive and pursue their dreams?"

These are the questions that Achieve, with its partners, Coordination of Aeron Research on AIDS and Mobility (Caram)-Philippines and Kalayaan, sought to answer when they embarked in 1997 on a research project on the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV/AIDS. With time, and with growing public awareness of the issue, as well as the emergence of several organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs), Achieve decided to extend the initial research work resulting in the documentation of the life stories of 11 migrant workers living with HIV/AIDS, contained in the book "For Good."

OF the 11 former OFWs who shared their stories with the researchers, four are males, six females and one a self-identified transgender

**AT LARGE****Rina Jimenez-David**

(that is, a man who underwent medical treatment, including a breast implant, to look more like a woman but who did not undergo the full sex-change procedure).

Browsing through the volume, I found seafarers, domestic workers, sex workers, a health worker. Once their positive status became known, all were sent home and now work as peer educators and counselors, mainly for PLWA groups. One woman has since passed away due to breast cancer.

The respondents' recollection of their childhoods and their motivations for working abroad do not vary much from the common stories of deprivation, poverty and ambition that drive so many Filipinos to leave the homeland. Seeking a reason for the workers' vulnerability to sexually transmitted infection, the researchers found a deadly intersection among economic factors, gender roles, relations and expectations, as well as ignorance of sexual and reproductive health matters.

"Indeed, the taboo against talking and seeking information about sexual matters explains why many...especially the women, hardly know anything about reproductive health when they first left the country. This also partly accounts for the failure of both sexes to practice or demand safe sex from their partners," the authors point out.

WHILE employed abroad, the workers mentioned the pressures they were subjected to not just from their immediate families but even friends and other relatives. Still, rather than give their families back home a realistic picture of their plight, the workers scramble to fulfill these

expectations, sometimes taking on second or third jobs just to earn enough to send home.

Note the authors: "The families do not understand the difficulty faced by migrant workers in trying to fulfill the demands placed on their shoulders. The migrant workers, however, give in to the demands of their families and keep silent about their problems." Certainly, a vicious cycle of expectations, pressure and silence.

Migrant workers, particularly women workers, are subject to a barrage of health tests before their deployment and in the course of their employment. And often, the manner by which they find out about their HIV status exacerbates the fear and insecurity such news brings.

"Lovely," for instance, was summoned by a clinic in Singapore and told to bring her employer with her. After first talking to the employer, the doctor in the clinic then bluntly told Lovely that she was HIV-positive. "Am I going to die?" she blurted out, to which the doctor replied coldly, "Everybody is going to die." The doctor then accused Lovely of bringing bad luck to his country. "Most HIV-positives in our country are migrant workers," the jerk said. "You are the ones bringing the virus to our country. So the best thing you could do is to get out of Singapore to avoid transmitting the virus."

If he had bothered to ask, Lovely had had only one partner while in Singapore, a Singaporean-Chinese.

IT is "highly likely" that the incidence of HIV infection among migrant workers will continue to rise in the coming years, the authors note. Among the reasons for this conclusion: migration increasingly becoming a more permanent economic option for many and the continued neglect of the link between migration and HIV/AIDS.

"In the final analysis," say the authors, "the impact of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers has a potential ripple effect, beginning with the individual...extending to his or her immediate family, expanding to the community, and eventually affecting the entire society."

Clearly, HIV/AIDS is not just "their" problem, it is ours.

**Scary stories****LOOKING BACK****Ambeth R. Ocampo**

HALLOWEEN is upon us again. In the village where I live, many families with children have put ghosts, goblins and ghouls outside their homes. Some have turned their front gardens into mock graveyards complete with tombstones, but the names are foreign. One house has a giant spider (actually black trash bags made to form a spider) sliding down a web attached to the carport. Another house has a complete horror castle complete with lights and creepy creatures.

These are all very creative displays mostly bought over the counter, which may explain why I have not seen real pumpkins carved into scary faces with candles inside. Neither have I seen the real spooks in Philippine folklore: *kapre*, *tiyak*, *manananggal*, *mangagaway*, *aswang*, etc. Halloween like some professional basketball players, is an import, a tradition that doesn't go very far back in the Philippines, but it is catching up.

It would be fascinating to know what scares Filipinos today. We are too urban for the *aswang* these days but there are other things to fear: criminals, criminals in police or military uniform, sexual predators, kidnappers, illegal recruiters, etc.

It would be fascinating to know the outcome of the First Capiz Aswang Festival this year. If Capiz is successful in drawing interest and tourists, perhaps other places could cash in on folklore like the witches of Siquijor or even the White Lady of Balete Drive, a hoax that has persisted over time like the Code of Kaniunaw.

Over the years, I have come across some very strange stories that I cannot use in my historical writings even if they are very arresting. For example, there have been accounts of ghosts in the Casa Manila Museum in Intramuros. I've always doubted this because the structure is new. How can you have ghosts in a house reconstructed in the 1980s? There are reports of sightings of *Guardias Civiles* and another "White Lady" walking like Sisa of "Noli Me Tangere."

In contrast, there have been no ghosts reported in any of the Rizal shrines: Fort Santiago, Calamba and Dapitan. If there were, maybe I would take the trouble to talk to Rizal's ghost if only to answer a lot of questions that resulted from reading all his writings. You will find in Guillermo Tolentino's forgotten book "Si Rizal" a transcript of a séance where Trinidad Rizal is alleged to have spoken to her brother Jose through a medium. Unfortunately, the language is stilted and the content too boring to be true.

Emilio Aguinaldo's mansion in Kawit, Cavite, is a museum and a national shrine. It is an original structure and should house spirits, at least of the hero buried in a simple white marble tomb in the back of the house. But so far there are no stories of the general going through all the secret passages and hidden rooms in the house.

Twenty years ago when I first visited the shrine, I was told *kapre* rather than ghost stories. A friendly *kapre* was said to inhabit an ancient mango tree near the master's bedroom. This creature would speak to the general either in his bedroom or the small room he kept on the tower of the house. A red light was allegedly seen on dark nights in this tree and it was said to be the lighted end of the *kapre's* cigar.

I cannot pinpoint one person who has seen the *kapre* or his lighted cigar. All we have are second- or third-hand accounts of sightings.

Why do these stories always come from the friend of a friend or a relative of a friend who can-

not be traced for full documentation? The *Kawit kapre* is supposed to have warned Aguinaldo of danger or the enemy, which partly explains why he survived assassins and the war. Despite a handful of sensational television reports on the *kapre*, this rumor has sort of faded away. Not too much horror effect here.

Another famous Halloween story that has also been forgotten concerns a painting by Juan Luna in the National Museum. It shows a woman in bed, with one breast exposed as if to seduce the viewer, but the disconcerting detail here is the rosary in her hands, and a prayer book on the night table. This curious mix of visuals led to a lot of speculation as to what the woman was trying to say or do or what Luna was trying to say or do. But we will leave that to art critics and psychiatrists and turn to the scary story.

This painting used to be known as the portrait of Paz Pardo de Tavera, until extant photographs proved that this was a different woman. One could argue that Luna made his wife prettier than she was, and I often use this painting to illustrate that love is indeed blind.

Like some paintings by Fernando Amorsolo depicting the horrors of the Japanese Occupation, this particular Luna painting has a reputation for bringing bad luck to people who own it: unexplained or unexpected death, illness or, worse, bankruptcy. It was even said that at certain times of the day, museum visitors would gaze on this beautiful woman and see her eyes turn red like glowing coals.

Again all are stories, and nothing has been documented so far.

In Europe, real estate especially old castles and manors, gain prestige if it has a resident historical ghost. In the Philippines, nobody will buy a haunted house. Now that is a cultural difference.

Comments are welcome at [aocampo@atenso.edu](mailto:aocampo@atenso.edu)

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## Migrante wrong on OWWA policies

MIGRANTE International is dead wrong in claiming that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) omnibus policies are "unjust." (PDI, 10/06/04)

It is erroneous to associate the \$25 (about P1,400) fee with an alleged "administration attempt to foist on the OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) the burden of the fiscal crisis." The contributions are pooled together purposely to provide insurance and other assistance for OWWA members and their families. The legal basis for

the fund is Letter of Instructions 537, which mandates the collection of the membership contribution. Moreover, in line with the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042), which upholds the role and functions of the OWWA, the omnibus policies delineate clear guidelines on OWWA membership and coverage, the collection of contributions and the availment of benefits.

Secondly, the policies plainly set forth the services and benefits OWWA members are entitled to,

wherever and whenever the need arises. For \$25, the OWWA member is entitled to P100,000-P200,000 life insurance, P2,000-P50,000 disability and dismemberment benefits, P100,000 total disability benefits, P20,000 burial benefits, and P40,000 pre-departure and family assistance loans.

OWWA also allocates P6 million annually for OFWs wanting to avail of technical and training assistance. The agency also provides P30,000 per semester each to some 100 OFWs and their families annu-

ally for its college scholarship program. Another P10 million is allocated yearly for its seafarers' upgrading program. Its reintegration program also provides livelihood loans to returning OFWs.

Over and above the programs and services extended to OWWA members, non-members in various job sites with labor-related problems are also assisted in the form of case settlements and repatriation.

Overall, the omnibus policies protect the OFW members' welfare and contribution in recogni-

tion of the maximum benefits that they deserve.

May we assure Migrante that the OWWA and the Philippine government, for that matter, have always sought to assist OFWs, including distressed non-OWWA members, to the fullest measure possible.

The main problem with Migrante is that it campaigns against OWWA membership and coverage and yet it wants to avail of its benefits!

May I add that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, ex-officio



chair of the OWWA, has caused the increase in OWWA funds from P2 billion to about P8 billion within the past two years. We figure that within the next year, OWWA's operating expenses can be drawn from interest earnings, thereby assuring more and continued benefits for OFWs.

—JEFFREY D. CORTAZAR,  
assistant secretary,  
Department of Labor and  
Employment,  
Intramuros, Manila

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## Consumerism as a nightmare

OCTOBER is Consumer Welfare Month. It may be worthwhile to reflect at this time why the consumer movement in the Philippines is timid and can hardly compare with those in other civilized countries. What we see around here are consumer organizations conferring awards on undeserving businesses after a questionable, non-transparent selection process. And there are the so-called consumer watchdogs who sound exactly as if they were the spokespersons of certain industry groups.

It is but natural for consumers to complain about poor products and services. And it is the duty of the government to protect the rights of consumers, as mandated by the Philippine Constitution. But based on my 12-year experience as a consumerist, consumer activism is a risky exercise in this country. It is only for those who have the determination of a martyr. It is a quixotic struggle where you have to fight the dragons of irresponsible and greedy corporations. Asserting your rights as a consumer, or fighting for other consumers, is like daring the fires of hell to engulf you.

We have here corporate mafias and gangsters that don't care about public relations and goodwill, that are so focused only on profits at all cost that they wouldn't mind fooling the consumers.

When you go against them, they send their attack dogs from top law firms against you. And then your calvary begins.

Our courts of justice are virtually an arena of persecution and oppression under the control and manipulation of top law firms such that one can't help feeling like he is in a repressive state and not in a republican government. One begins to doubt whether the country is merely pretending to be a democratic state. One feels so disappointed that he would sometimes wish for Ka Roger Rosal's brand of justice.

Where else in this modern world can you find consumerists who—after fighting for others, particularly the poor and the marginalized—are treated like perpetrators of heinous crimes, tried four times a month in separate courts, their right to a consolidation of cases ignored and denied? Only in the Philippines! And it's a nightmare.

Believe me, after 12 years, this has been my bitter experience in the Philippine consumer movement.

We can only call God for help and salvation. And we hope that Senators Mar Roxas, Alfredo Lim and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will take note of this and take the cudgels for consumers.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,  
president,  
Coalition for Consumer Protection  
& Welfare Inc.,  
104 Gately St., Annex 18,  
Better Living, Parañaque City

## Intriguing ERC move

WE vehemently protest the action of the Energy Regulatory Commission when it conducted a public consultation on the "Guidelines for the Automatic Adjustment of Generation Rates and System Loss Rates by Distribution Utilities" last Oct. 4 without inviting the consumers. We only came to know of the public consultation from the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore), which in turn came to know about it that very day. Ironically, not even the Consumer Affairs Department of the commission was aware of the forum.

As can be gleaned from the topic of consultation, we can only surmise that its implementation will again burden the consumer. If this were so, wouldn't it have been proper for the ERC to ensure consumer attendance in the "consultation" in the light of its mandate, which is "promoting consumer protection"?

Because the ERC chose not to invite us, we are inclined to believe that the ERC does not consider consumers to be a necessary part of that "public consultation." It intrigues us no end how the commission will be able to come up with intelligent and unbiased guidelines without hearing the side of the consumers who bear the brunt of any rate adjustment it approves.

We are requesting the honorable commission to allow us the chance to participate in the consultation by extending the deadline on the submission of comments on the draft guidelines, and also to conduct a separate public consultation with consumers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO,  
president, Federation of Las Piñas  
Homeowners Association,  
Las Piñas City, bc\_dazo@yahoo.com;  
SIEGFRIEDO VELOSO,  
president, Federation of Village Association,  
Muntinlupa City, siegveloso@yahoo.com



### Question of the Week

Change the world. We can make  
this world a better place.

As a Filipino, I can make a difference  
in our country by \_\_\_\_\_.

Texters hns messages R printed in Tuesday's InqBox w/L each receive an "Inquirer t-shirt!"

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## Reyes, PDI Central Liaison Desk



"War impoverishes people, destroys their dreams and hopes. War is evil... but kamikaze pilots are not evil, although they made their own lives as weapons," said Japanese actor Mayasuki Imai.

**Felipe V. Cellino, PDI Visayas Bureau**



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## PCSO TODAY



THE LINETO HEALING. A receptionist at the PCSO's Fund Allocation Department (FAD) instructs a grandmother to fill up an application request as hundreds wait for their turn to seek medical and hospital assistance from the charity agency. PHOTO BY DES MANLAPEZ

## 'More than 1,600 hospitals poised to accommodate over 4 million GMA card holders,' says PhilHealth

By Dmitri Arce

OVER 1,600 GOVERNMENT and private hospitals nationwide are now primed to accommodate more than 4 million families that still have to avail of their Enhanced Greater Medical Access (GMA)-PhilHealth card.

This was disclosed by Arcie Torres, officer-in-charge of the Office of the Vice President for Marketing at PhilHealth, the national government's capacity to deliver access to health services and medical assistance to some 20 million direct beneficiaries of the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program.

The program, started in February this year, is a joint effort of PhilHealth, the national government and local government units (LGUs), and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). It is an expanded version of the PCSO GMA Program launched last in April 2003, which was geared to

intensify the government's efforts to provide universal health coverage to poor Filipinos.

Records sourced from PhilHealth indicate that as of August this year, about 4,241,381 individuals have been enrolled in the program, for a total reach of 20 million direct beneficiaries.

PhilHealth officials said that the distribution scheme of the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program gives priority to heads of families and breadwinners, with their dependents listed also as direct beneficiaries.

This type of distribution scheme allows for orderly tracking and monitoring of services extended, since direct beneficiaries enjoy the same health and medical privileges, proponents said.

The target number of enrollment in the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program is 5 million cardholders. This translates to around 25 million total beneficiaries or almost a fourth of the current Philippine population.

Torres disclosed that to as of August this year, the enrollment number of beneficiaries have been higher than the reported number of beneficiaries that actually availed of the program's health and medical benefits, that include: among others - patient assistance on room and board, medicine, laboratory fees and hospitalization.

As of August of this year, Torres said that processed hospitalization claims of about 14,000 beneficiaries was reported, but the cost still amounted to P16.4 million, or 70 percent of what PCSO has so far released as funds for the program.

PCSO has transferred a total of P230 million to PhilHealth as partial payment of its share in implementing the program. Both PCSO and the national government, through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), have been tasked to fund the payment of premiums of cardholders. The premium requirement of the program is over P5 billion, around P1.75 billion of which is shouldered by PCSO.

## When a salary is not ALL salary

THE ENCARTA dictionary defines "salary" as payment for nonmanual work: a set sum of money paid at regular intervals to an employee, especially for professional or clerical work.

A salary, according to Encarta, is usually presented as an annual or monthly figure, as opposed to the wage paid to manual workers, which is usually based on an hourly rate and paid weekly.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) figured in a salary controversy of sorts recently, after it was reported that its top official, former PCSO chair Ma. Livia 'Honeygirl' de Leon, received P9.8 million in salaries and allowances in 2001.

The multi-million salary received was sourced from a response made by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin before a Senate inquiry.

Bul Benigno Aguas, PCSO Budget and Accounting Department manager declared the report as "misleading" since "it would make people believe that all P9.8 million went to only one person, in this case, the PCSO former chair."

Aguas elaborated that of the P9.8 million, former chair De Leon received only P1,239,811.04. The said amount pertained to De Leon's total salary or a monthly gross salary of P30,000, excluding taxes.

He added that the rest of the P9.8 million came in the form of "discretionary expenses" or as part of the PCSO chair's "confidential fund."

"Discretionary expenses are released to the PCSO chair for use in augmenting medical, health and other indigent programs of PCSO. The confidential or intelligence fund, on the other hand, is used for certain authorized expenditures which are designed to protect the interest and integrity of lotto operations," he further stated.

"Both funds are subject to accounting rules of the Commission on Audit," said Aguas.

To date, the PCSO has a total of 31 COA representatives, including the corporate auditor.

Aguas stressed that De Leon's 2001 discretionary fund (P4.8 million) disbursements were used to finance, among others, medical assistance and disaster relief distribution. These include: relief goods for typhoon victims and the Mayon Volcano victims; purchase of wheelchairs; funding for "Bantay Kalusugan," and numerous individual medical and hospitalization assistance.

He likewise bared that De Leon's use of her confidential funds translated to only P3.7 million in 2001. **Dmitri Arce**

**Official Draw Results**

<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 12 37 45 33 25 22 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P4,869,454.80 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 0 3 2 5 Suertres: 4 7 3 Lotto EZ 2: 9 26	<b>Lotto 6/42</b> 26 9 19 13 12 20 Lotto Jackpot Prize: 1 winners of P3,112,080.00 Within Jackpot Prize: no winners of P12,244,600.56 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 7 9 3 4 8 6 1st Prize: no winners of P838,822.08 Suertres: 2 2 0 Lotto EZ 2: 28 25
<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 40 38 3 34 4 35 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P10,089,506.70 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 8 2 4 8 Suertres: 0 6 7 Lotto EZ 2: 21 27	<b>SuperLotto 6/49</b> 40 6 15 48 42 39 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P11,274,057.90 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 7 5 6 0 2 7 1st Prize: no winners of P1,121,772.62 Suertres: 4 4 5 Lotto EZ 2: 11 24
<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 28 30 44 21 3 31 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P15,420,890.10 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 3 6 7 2 Suertres: 0 0 8 Lotto EZ 2: 25 25	<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 20 10 38 42 30 26 Lotto Jackpot Prize: 1 winners of P6,532,194.00 Within Jackpot Prize: no winners of P14,352,402.05 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 8 5 0 2 0 2 1st Prize: no winners of P2,006,578.00 Suertres: 0 0 3 Lotto EZ 2: 14 27

<b>Lotto 6/42</b> 14 34 19 28 24 16 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P3,205,741.00 Within Jackpot Prize: no winners of P13,305,861.80 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 5 6 3 6 6 2 1st Prize: no winners of P1,632,749.04 Suertres: 5 3 2 Lotto EZ 2: 16 28	<b>SuperLotto 6/49</b> 7 30 31 48 12 38 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P16,833,652.50 All following numbers should be in exact order Suertres: 9 5 6 Lotto EZ 2: 29 12
<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 43 6 36 8 42 37 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P20,803,429.50 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 5 6 1 Suertres: 9 8 4 Lotto EZ 2: 21 11	<b>SuperLotto 6/49</b> 32 12 25 41 36 28 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P9,000,000.00 All following numbers should be in exact order Suertres: 6 3 0 Lotto EZ 2: 6 10

<b>SuperLotto 6/49</b> 32 21 2 29 14 19 Lotto Jackpot Prize: 1 winners of P22,811,770.80 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 9 0 2 2 2 1st Prize: no winners of P1,295,550.28 Suertres: 9 6 9 Lotto EZ 2: 27 23	<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 19 22 10 45 37 30 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P32,382,056.70 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 4 7 6 Suertres: 9 9 8 Lotto EZ 2: 16 12
<b>SuperLotto 6/49</b> 3 20 1 31 29 41 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P3,176,700.00 Within Jackpot Prize: no winners of P15,404,530.40 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 3 3 9 0 4 9 1st Prize: no winners of P2,813,328.14 Suertres: 6 7 1 Lotto EZ 2: 3 8	<b>MegaLotto 6/42</b> 4 8 36 9 35 21 Lotto Jackpot Prize: no winners of P26,495,303.10 All following numbers should be in exact order Lotto 4 Digit Game: 5 8 3 7 Suertres: 7 0 0 Lotto EZ 2: 21 24

## Feedback

Ma'am Rosario C. Umarte  
Gen. Manager  
PCSO, E. Rodriguez Ave. Q.C.

Dear Ma'am,

Nakita ko po ang email ad nyo at naglakas lomb akong sumulat sa pagbabakasakaling mutulongan nyo ako. Nagnanita po ako dyan sa PCSO dahil nakabasa ako sa PDI dated 08 Sept. issue tungkol sa "Wanna be a Lotto Agent?" Then, by Sept. 16 nakatanggap po ako ng sulat signed by Ma'am Remedios M. Gabuyo saying na saturated na daw po with 7 approved outlet.

Ma'am tulungan nyo naman po ako, kasi arto po sa baranggay namin Sta. Rita Karsada al Bolbuk here in Batangas City ay wala po namang outlet. I try to contact Ma'am Gabuyo by phone pero on vacation daw po siya. Ma'am help me naman po para makatutulong din ako sa mga kabutay ko na gustong lumayo sa lotto pero sa traffic po dito sa lugar namin ay hindi na sila pupunta po sa city. May dalawa na po akong location site na nanunawad diyan at nandun ang pagasa ko na mutulongan nyo ako sa aking application.

Good day and more power.

Respectfully yours,  
Juana G. Camacho  
Sta. Rita Karsada, Batangas City  
Phone No: (043) 723 6516  
Cell 0927 234 5002  
Oct. 13, 2004

EDITOR'S NOTE: We forwarded the letter to PCSO and this is their reply:

We regret to inform Ms. Juana G. Camacho that we will not be able to approve her application for a lotto outlet in Batangas City.

Much as we encourage the setting up of lotto outlets in various parts of the country, there are guidelines set by the PCSO Board that we have to observe. These include areas where lotto outlets are not allowed, such as locations that are near churches and schools.

In the case of Ms. Camacho's application, her suggested lotto outlet is only 10 meters away from the Batangas City New Life Christian Church.

This violates the guideline provision that lotto outlets in the provinces have to be 200 meters away from churches and schools.

Still, we encourage Ms. Camacho to scout for other areas where a lotto outlet can be allowed to operate, based on PCSO-approved guidelines. We assure Ms. Camacho and other lotto outlet applicants that their requests will be processed and evaluated at the soonest possible time.

We encourage prospective lotto operators to visit our office so that we may furnish them with a copy of the PCSO-approved guidelines on the setting-up and operation of lotto outlets.

Thank you very much.  
REMELIZA M. GABUYO  
Depl. Mgr., PCSO Southern  
Tagalog and Bicol Region



# Lotto Tripping

By Ferdinand Mendoza

**F**OUR FACTORY workers agreed to place their bets on just one lotto number combination and won eight million pesos. Each received a share of P2 million which they all spent on non-stop shopping and drinking sprees. It didn't take a year before they realized they had spent all their lotto winnings. Worse, they were over their heads in debt!

A tricycle driver from Iloilo won P18 million. He came with his lawyer who "helped" him claim his prize. The driver went home with only P500,000 in his pocket. The rest was with his lawyer.

Some 915 Filipinos have joined the multi-million peso lotto winner's circle since it began in 1995. What do you do if the next one is you?

Gloria Araullo, PCSO Treasury Department Manager, stressed that jackpot winners need to keep their presence of mind when they claim their prize.

"Most of the time, winners seem to lose their wits. Some even get paranoid, thinking that something bad might happen to them," she said.

Araullo added, however, that this was quite understandable. "Imagine if you win millions of pesos, wouldn't you feel the same way?"

As a safety measure, she advises winners that a 30-day time deposit for their money is the best first step after collecting their prize.

"This will give them ample time to think about how they will spend their money. Also, their winnings will increase since a 30-day time deposit earns considerable interest," explained Araullo.

Araullo, who has been in charge of releasing checks to lotto jackpot winners for the past six years, has become a mother of sorts to lotto winners. Some occasionally visit her and regale her with their experiences after winning the lotto.

Araullo cautioned that it is not good for winners to indulge in shopping sprees or to engage in overly generous acts soon after collecting their prize money. In 2003, an urban poor community resident who hit the P19-million lotto jackpot was murdered after purchasing a van.

"We asked him what he would do with his money. He said that he would use part of it to renovate their church which had no walls and chairs. All went well until he bought a van and began giving freebies to his neighbors and relatives. Word got around fast that he won in the lotto. He was dead in less than a month," said Araullo.

Fortunately for lotto players, majority of the true-to-life stories of lotto winners are of the "happily ever after" kind.

A farmer from Bicol got his lucky number from the sack of fertilizer. He harvested the

P32 million lotto jackpot prize.

A mother was cleaning her kitchen when a can of biscuit fell on her head. She saw numbers written on the can, bet on the number, and hit the jackpot.

When a kangkong vendor from Balangas hit the jackpot, she told her daughter — while Araullo was handing her the check: "Anak bukas, hindi na tayo magka-kangkong [daughter, tomorrow, we will no longer sell kangkong]."

The vendor, a mother of five children, had led a miserable life before winning the lotto.

Narrated Araullo: "She told me how she (vendor) had to wake up very early each morning to harvest kangkong in a swamp and to sell it in a nearby market. If there is no kangkong to harvest, her family will go without food for that day."

In another instance, a mother of eight, whose eldest daughter works as an entertainer in Japan, hit the P145 million jackpot prize. In tears, the winner — who had spent her most productive years as a *mayordoma* to a wealthy family in Bacolod — told Araullo: "Pamamagitan ko na ang anak ko bukas mada sa Japan [I will send for my daughter first thing tomorrow]."

Araullo observes that next to an upgraded economic status, a good number of lotto winners also undergo a drastic makeover in looks.

"I am surprised by the change in their appearance within months after winning the jackpot. In some cases, I do not recognize the winner anymore," Araullo said with barely disguised mirth.

She said that winners often tell her that they would prefer not to change their lifestyle. However, this is not always the case.

"Some claim their prize wearing ragged clothes and worn-out thong slippers. But when they visit me months later, they appear in fashionable clothes and leather shoes," said Araullo.

Beyond looks, however, security still seems to be the foremost concern of lotto winners.

Said Araullo: "They (winners) are always scared to be identified. Some are even afraid to have their photos taken."

Recently, an unnamed soldier made the news after being declared the winner in the P87-million 6/49 lotto draw. The soldier was with his brother and father when

Who are the lotto winners?  
Is there a formula for hitting the jackpot?  
How can you protect yourself and your money when you win?

Nakakapraning namang mag ng milyong-peso.



he claimed his prize.

Araullo bared, however, that the soldier disclosed that it was his brother who actually made the winning bet. But because the brother feared something unfortunate might happen to him if he was declared the winner, he asked his soldier-brother to claim the prize in his behalf.

Lotto winners came from different walks of life — from farmer to businessman. "There was even a time when a banker hit the jackpot," Araullo said.

There is no exact formula for guessing the winning number combination of every draw. Still, Araullo disclosed that from the experience of past lotto winners, the numbers that hit the jackpot the most tend to correspond to dates that were of personal importance to the lotto winner. "This could range from birthdates of loved ones to anniversary dates, or even a death anniversary date. 'Itakes lahat ng nanako ay may alagang numero [Majority of the winners had a favored number combination],' remarked Araullo.

Other sources of winning numbers, Araullo revealed, could be those numbers volunteered by friends or relatives, and those supplied by the computer or what is known as the "lucky pick."

A former Citibank executive and now Hong Kong-based businessman offered this tip to lotto players. "Religiously and consistently bet on just one number combination in only one game (6/42 or 6/45 or 6/49). If you bet on every draw for that one game you chose, you will most likely hit the jackpot within three years. The question, however, is how much will the jackpot prize be, by the time your number hits the jackpot?"

Well, this early, it's safe to say it will be in the millions of pesos, at the very least.

Araullo said it takes less than an hour to claim the jackpot prize, which comes in the form of a check. A winner should proceed first to the Internal Audit Department to have the winning ticket verified. Upon verification, the winner will be given a claim form which he/she has to give to the treasury department for check preparation. Araullo serves as one of the two signatories of the check. The other signatory is the PCSO General Manager.

After the check has been prepared and signed by its duly-authorized signatories, the next and final step would be the waiting hands of the victorious lotto jackpot winner. Happy betting!

## Gardens of Wisdom from the Internet

(Two ways of interpreting a Chinese folk tale)

HALF-EMPTY HALF-FULL



Rosario C. Uriarte

**L**AST SATURDAY, an e-mail letter I received from a friend contained a very interesting folk tale. It told of a waterbearer from China who carried water everyday using two earthenware pots — one with a crack on it and the other, in perfect shape. The cracked pot considered itself a miserable failure because it could only carry half the water that the perfect pot could deliver in full. Months later, the cracked pot asked its master why it was still being used to get water. The master answered that the cracked pot, despite its flaw, served him well. For he had planted flower seeds on the side of the road where water from the cracked pot leaked. The seeds yielded fragrant flowers that gave his home color and made his wife very happy. "Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house," the water bearer said.

In her letter, my friend said the moral of the story was simple: *We all have our own cracks and flaws. But it is these cracks and flaws that make our lives interesting and rewarding.*

I guess that is one of the moral lessons that can be derived from such a quaint tale. But when I retold the story to another friend of mine, she remarked that it is the water bearer who is the wizard and the source of wisdom in the story. It is the water bearer who assessed the flaw of the cracked pot, found a way to make the pot useful despite its cracks, and most important of all, proceeded to work and eventually, realized the advantage that a leaking cracked pot can bring to an ingenious water bearer.

Funny how situations in life can teach different lessons to different people. Some of us look beyond the flaws and see the individual who, despite being flawed, has a definite purpose or role in society. Some, however, look beyond the flaw and the flawed individual, and focus more on observing, appreciating, and learning from the processes that transform flaws and flawed individuals into assets and strengths.

These days, many Pinoy seem to liken our nation to the mythical cracked pot in the Chinese folk tale — a nation full of cracks and flaws. One need only to switch to the news channel to find angry viewer comments on corruption and poverty, or some other problem, scrolled at the bottom of the TV screen. And yet, after the fire and fury of anger have been vented, what do most of us do about these problems?

"We go home and drown our disgust in beer," said a male cousin of mine who had complained about the rising crime in the city. "Not me," admits a friend. "What can I do, I am just an ordinary person, without money and connections."

I guess those responses more or less depict the range of behavioral options most disgruntled Pinoy take.

Still, there are some who, like the water bearer in the Chinese tale, employ creative solutions to problems most people would just crab about.

Take for example, the women of the Banahaw Sustainable Community Development Center and their *Halamang Buhay Pagkain, Gamot at Pagkakakitaan* project.

Opahne Roxas, executive director of Banahaw SustDev and veteran women's rights activist Justice Leonor Ines Luciano are teaching urban poor women to grow herbs, edible flowers, and vegetables by making the most of the small open spaces in these women's homes. They also train the women in organic farming, garbage recycling, and composting.

"We wanted to help urban poor women keep abreast with the difficult times. We began a dispersal and technology scheme that will allow women to benefit from the plants they raise, without further stressing their environment," said Roxas.

From an initial community of just one in Marikina, Banahaw SustDev now has three communities, each community composed of women's groups that have 10 to 15 members.

And how much does each woman participate earn for her efforts? Banahaw SustDev organizers said the individual income from sold herbs alone range from P750 to P1,500 a month. Of course, there is the added bonus of seeing what was once a row of run-down shacks turn into almost quaint little homes with windows, frontages, and even roofs covered by sweet-smelling basil, peppermint, rosemary, and other gas-a herbs.

Think about it. Poverty and hunger in poor communities alleviated, not by the government or the church or big business, but by everyday people like you and I — women who took it upon themselves to help solve very real problems and aid. Now, if we can only convince more Filipinos to do the same.

Rosario C. Uriarte is the General Manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Kindly e-mail all comments/suggestions to [mahul\\_hung\\_giney@yahoo.com](mailto:mahul_hung_giney@yahoo.com)

## Playing catch-up with Lotto?

### New sweepstakes gimmick raises player's chance to win from 1 to 30 days

by Darcy Geronimo

WITH LOTTO SALES revenues outstripping the sales take of sweepstakes tickets, officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) have come up with a new gimmick that is expected to renew public interest in the sweepstakes.

The new sweepstakes game is called "*Isang sweepstakes tiket, isang buwang araw-araw papremyo*." It will make a sold sweepstakes ticket eligible to win for thirty draw days instead of the traditional one ticket-one draw play.

"We have increased the shelf-life of every purchased ticket to 30 days. This translates to increasing a player's chance to win by 30 times for every ticket bought," said Nilo C. Chiuencano, PCSO assistant general manager for marketing.

Chiuencano added that draws will be held daily for 30 days in this new sweepstakes game. Tickets that have already won will still be included in the daily draw.

A jackpot prize of P100,000 and consolation prizes amounting to another P100,000 will be given

every day, for a total of about P6.5 million in prizes every month.

Chiuencano reminded sweepstakes players, however, that they have to purchase the tickets before the Daily Sweepstakes Draw for every month begins.

"The ticket is good for a month when it is purchased before the draw month begins," he explained. "But if the ticket is purchased sometime within the month, the number of chances to win decreases, depending on when you purchased the ticket."

Chiuencano further elaborated that daily jackpot prizes not won in particular days will be added to a pot that would be drawn at the end of the month.

PCSO officials hope that the new game will revive public interest in the sweepstakes, which had been temporarily suspended because of poor patronage. They add that the new game is expected to rake in P4.2 million for the agency's Charity Fund.

As stated in the PCSO Charter, 30 percent of all earnings from sweepstakes and lotto sales go to charity. The Charity Fund is the PCSO's sole source of

funds used for rendering medical assistance to indigent individuals and for providing endowments to hospitals.

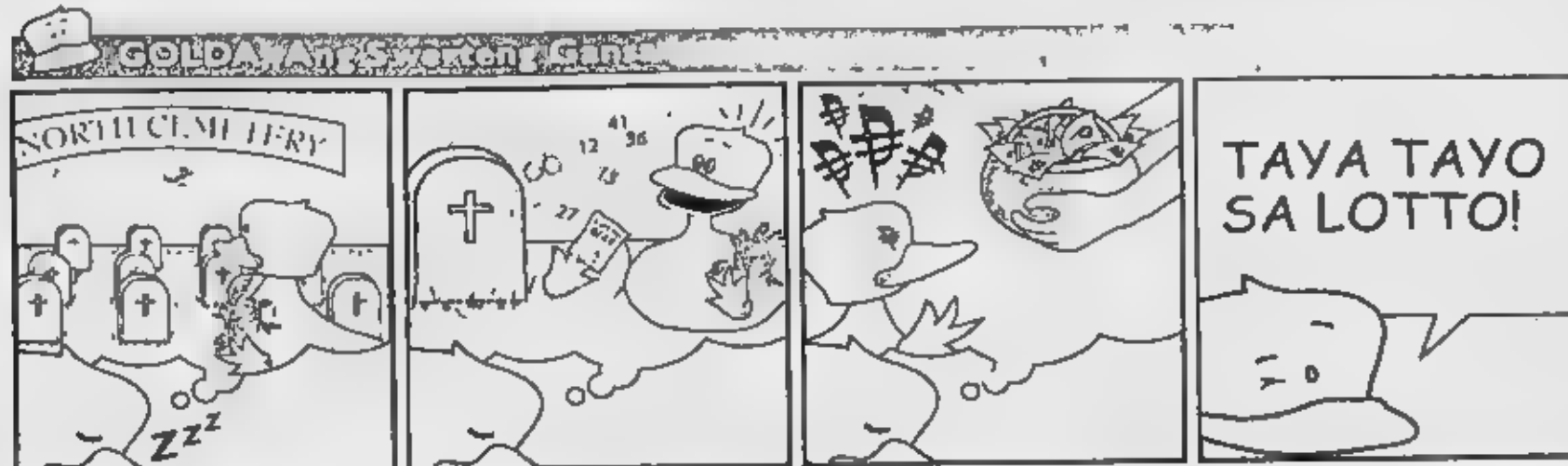
Ray Carlos Concepcion, a computer technician based in upscale Makati, said that the new sweepstakes game is more attractive to the buying public since a person has more chances of winning.

"Bibili ako nito kasi kung kasali ako huong buwan, mas malaki ang kansa ko na manalo. Mas madaang matala ako kaysa dun sa dati," said Concepcion.

"Isang sweepstakes tiket, isang buwang araw-araw papremyo" will start in December this year. Marketing and actual selling of the tickets are due next month.

Draws will be held every 4 p.m. at the PCSO Draw Court, PCSO Compound, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. All draws will be telecast at 9 p.m. during the Lotto draws at NBN 4.

Tickets will be sold through the PCSO Provincial District Offices, Sales Supervisors, Provincial Distributors, Sales Representatives, and Sales Department Sellers.





# INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrol  
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A FISHERMAN tows his boat to shore in one of the islets of Pangasinan's Hundred Islands.

## A troubled paradise

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes  
Alaminos City

**T**ALK of Pangasinan tourism and the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) in Alaminos City instantly comes to mind.

After all, the Hundred Islands is the province's premier tourist attraction—a diverse ecosystem of overgrown corals that compose the 123 islands and islets where the sand, sea and sun work together to bring about a variety of flora and fauna.

Every year, the 1,844-hectare HINP attracts thousands of visitors who want to enjoy this wonderful gift of nature. But each year, too, the threats to its ecological beauty become so real that unless authorities strengthen their resolve to protect and conserve it, the country's first national park may just go to waste.

The HINP declared a national park by President Manuel L. Quezon in 1940, was first managed by the Bureau of Forestry and later, by the Hundred Islands Conservation and Development Authority.

The HICDA then leased it to the provincial government, which turned over its management

to the Philippine Tourism Authority in 1980.

When former agrarian reform secretary Hernan Baganza became mayor of the 2-year-old Alaminos this year, he decided that the local government must "co-manage" the HINP, citing the city charter that identified the islands as part of its territory.

Baganza said a memorandum of agreement would be signed by the city government with the PTA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the co-management of the islands.

He said the city had created an "environmentally sustainable" development plan aimed at attracting more tourists to the islands while protecting and sustaining them as a marine reserve and establishing a zoning plan, including a marine sanctuary.

As the city government dreams big of developing the HINP and making Alaminos the "center of tourism and tourist destination in Northern Luzon," it also has to address the ecological problems that threaten the very existence of the islands.

A briefing paper on the HINP cited problems such as insufficient resources for tourism development and environment protection, lack of tourism services and facilities, lack of marketing, poor visitor safety and security system, lack of enforcement of marine reserve guidelines on illegal fishing and poaching of corals, shells, bamboo and lumber, and lack of waste management system.

The paper did not mention the proliferation of commercial and residential establishments within the foreshore area of Lucap (jump-off point to the HINP), proliferation of fish pens, and the conversion of a 46-hectare area into fishponds.

These problems have long been acknowledged by the agencies that agree that the HINP needs conservation and protection from environmental degradation.

When the PTA, DENR and the National Committee of Geological Sciences declared the HINP a "Geological Monument" on Oct. 26, 2001, a ray of hope that the problems would be addressed shone. The efforts, however, came to naught.

### Blight

Right smack in the HINP is a 45-hectare area leased to a group of fishermen from Alaminos by the PTA in 1980. The fishermen formed the Bolo Development Cooperative (Bolodeco) to develop a swampy mangrove area within the park into fishponds. The cooperative has 221 members.

In 1993, the Department of Agrarian Reform granted the application of Bolodeco for a certificate of land ownership agreement (CLOA) for the area under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). This, despite Executive Order No. 506 issued in 1992 by then President Corason Aquino, excluding national parks and other protected areas, from segregation, acquisition and distribution by the DAR.

An environmental group said it had a copy of the DENR's initial protected area plan for the reclassification of the HINP from a national park to a protected landscape/seascape.

"In this plan, Bolodeco was shown to be a threat," the group said.

"The presence of the Bolodeco still serves as the major threat to the marine ecosystem of the national park (as it) will eventually result (in) the abundance of organic wastes coming from fish meals. These wastes then upset the marine area's ecological balance, thereby threatening the survival of other marine species and organisms endemic in the area," the group quoted the DENR assessment.

The department has also acknowledged that the fishponds and cages developed by Bolodeco have affected the water quality at the southeastern portion of the park.

"Marine life within the park is threatened by siltation, increase of carbon dioxide, and pollution. Water quality at the recreational islands like Quezon's, Governor's and Children's, is being monitored by the DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," the agency said in its website.

Legal issues also hound Bolodeco's CLOA.

"Can a private cooperative acquire ownership of land within the national park? Is the HINP considered agricultural land that it could be covered by a CLOA? Can a private cooperative be considered a farmer beneficiary for the issuance of CLOA? Did the DAR have an authority to issue that CLOA?" the environmental group asked.

In August 1999, the PTA asked the DAR Adjudication Board (Dnab) to declare the CLOA null and void ab initio (from the start).

The PTA also asked Bolodeco to surrender the CLOA to the DAR and for the agency to cancel it, to revert the area to public domain, and to issue a permanent injunction against the cooperative in exercising rights of ownership.

Answering the PTA's petition, Bolodeco insisted that the acquisition of the fishponds inside the HINP was aboveboard because two Philippine presidents had authorized the award of the area.

The fishermen claimed that Aquino issued EO 407 in 1990 authorizing the issuance of the CLOA by the DAR. Then President Fidel V. Ramos later authorized the issuance of the original Certificate of Transfer 2077 to Bolodeco, which was registered with the registry of deeds of Pangasinan.

### ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
CEBU	SI-557	Daily	DC9	0300	0740	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-559	Daily	DC9	0610	0610	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-561	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-565	Daily	DC9	1300	1410	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-567	Daily	DC9	1525	1435	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-571	Daily	DC9	1810	1810	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-573	Daily	DC9	2010	2010	P2,899	P2,229
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
DAVAO	SI-561	Daily	DC9	0430	0610	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-563	Daily	DC9	1020	1200	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-565	Daily	DC9	1310	1455	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-567	Daily	DC9	1540	1725	P3,667	P3,239
PAGAYAN DE ORO	SI-581	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-583	Daily	DC9	0930	1055	P3,645	P3,239
TACLOBAN	SI-581	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-583	Daily	DC9	1150	1300	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-585	Daily	DC9	1410	1520	P3,645	P3,239
ILOILO	SI-551	Daily	DC9	0520	0620	P4,779	P4,449
	SI-553	Daily	DC9	0640	0740	P4,779	P4,449
	SI-555	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P4,779	P4,449
	SI-557	Daily	DC9	1410	1540	P4,779	P4,449
BACOLOD	SI-473	Daily	DC9	0510	0615	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-475	Daily	DC9	0640	0740	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-477	Daily	DC9	1450	1555	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-479	Daily	DC9	1650	1755	P2,779	P2,449
effective until November 03							
ZAMBOANGA	SI-551	Daily	DC9	0520	0655	P3,667	P3,239
ROXAS	SI-573	Daily	DC9	0610	0710	P2,539	P2,149
DUMAGUETE	SI-625	Daily	DC9	0610	0735	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-627	Daily	DC9	1235	1350	P2,899	P2,569
KALIBO	SI-339	Daily	DC9	0920	0920	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-341	Daily	DC9	1115	1205	P2,899	P2,569
BUTUAN	SI-787	Daily	DC9	0920	1045	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-723	Daily	DC9	0920	1200	P3,645	P3,239
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
PUERTO PRINCESA	SI-537	Daily	DC9	0645	0955	P2,899	P2,499
	SI-539	Daily	DC9	1225	1225	P2,899	P2,499
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
SUBIC	SI-104	Daily	DC9	0750	1500	P500	
	SI-106	Daily	DC9	0750	1500	P500	
	SI-108	Daily	DC9	0750	1500	P500	
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
TAGBILARAN	SI-619	Daily	DC9	0715	0815	P2,899	P2,569

### ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-556	Daily	DC9	0300	0740	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-558	Daily	DC9	0400	0810	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-560	Daily	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-562	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-564	Daily	DC9	1245	1355	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-566	Daily	DC9	1500	1610	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-568	Daily	DC9	1700	1810	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-570	Daily	DC9	1900	2010	P2,899	P2,229
	SI-572	Daily	DC9	2100	2210	P2,899	P2,229
DAVAO	SI-593	Daily	DC9	0935	1030	P2,569	P2,249
	SI-597	Daily	DC9	1450	1545	P2,569	P2,249
BUTUAN	SI-223	Daily	DC9	1200	1200	P1,839	P1,499
PUERTO PRINCESA	SI-227	Daily	DC9	1115	1225	P2,899	P2,499
ZAMBOANGA	SI-431	Daily	DC9	0910	1005	P2,645	P2,319
BACOLOD	SI-126	Daily	DC9	0820	0955	P1,879	P1,539
ILOILO	SI-164	Daily	DC9	0710	0715	P2,099	P1,759

### ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-952	Daily	DC9	0740	0920	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-954	Daily	DC9	1300	1444	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-956	Daily	DC9	1625	1811	P3,667	P3,239
	SI-958	Daily	DC9	1805	1950	P3,667	P3,239
CEBU	SI-594	Daily	DC9	1110	1200	P2,589	P2,249
	SI-596	Daily	DC9	1535	1631	P2,589	P2,249
ILOILO	SI-598/164	Daily	DC9	1535	1745	P3,645	P3,195
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
ZAMBOANGA	SI-303	Daily	DC9	0910	1005	P2,645	P2,319

### ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-374	Daily	DC9	0700	0755	P2,539	P2,149

### ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-852	Daily	DC9	1045	1220	P3,667	P3,239
CEBU	SI-432	Daily	DC9	0735	0830	P2,645	P2,319
DAVAO	SI-394	Daily	DC9	0735	0830	P2,645	P2,319

### ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-474	Daily	DC9	0945	1050	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-476	Daily	DC9	1155	1300	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-478	Daily	DC9	1645	1750	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-480	Daily	DC9	1845	1950	P2,779	P2,449
effective until November 03							
CEBU	SI-125	Daily	DC9	0705	0740	P1,879	P1,539

### ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-788	Daily	DC9	1155	1250	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-224	Daily	DC9	1310	1310	P3,645	P3,239
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							
CEBU	SI-224	Daily	DC9	1110	1250	P1,839	P1,499

### ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-452	Daily	DC9	0700	0800	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-454	Daily	DC9	1040	1140	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-456	Daily	DC9	1720	1820	P2,779	P2,449
	SI-458	Daily	DC9	1830	1930	P2,779	P2,449
CEBU	SI-161	Daily	DC9	0820	0855	P2,099	P1,759
DAVAO	SI-163/165	Daily	DC9	0820	1030	P3,645	P3,195
not valid for travel on October 30 & 31							

### ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-654	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-656	Daily	DC9	1500	1710	P2,899	P2,569

### ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-626	Daily	DC9	0715	0830	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-628	Daily	DC9	1430	1545	P2,899	P2,569

### ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-282	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239
	SI-284	Daily	DC9	1115	1300	P3,645	P3,239

### ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLY NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	NOTE
TRAVEL VALIDITY						YEAR 1 MONTH 1 DAY OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	SI-340	Daily	DC9	1050	1140	P2,899	P2,569
	SI-342	Daily	DC9	1745	1835	P2,899	P2,569

### ORIGIN: PUERTO PRINCESA



# Princess stark simple in dinner to raise P20M

From page A1

oline is president.

Amade Mondiale, which means World Association of Children's Friends, was founded by the princess' mother, the iconic Hollywood actress Grace Kelly.

The organizers' target was a whopping P20 million that evening. They didn't get that, just a bit close to that. The money should continue supporting the 12 houses put up to house about 300 disadvantaged children and help build more.

It must have been Metro Manila society's first experience on how royalty uses its cachet for humanitarian causes, everywhere.

Guests pay the tab to be amid royalty—in this case, P50,000, P20,000 or P10,000 per plate, depending on one's proximity to the royal table.

Now, to be seated with Princess Caroline, it cost P1 million.

The Makati Shangri-La ballroom wasn't packed. There was generous space between tables, with the "poor" P10,000 per plate tables set up on the platforms near the ballroom walls, with the higher-priced tables spread out

closer to the center where the Princess' table was.

Among those at the Princess' table Monday night were Paeng and Mely Hechanova, Nedy Tantoco, Rico Tantoco, Amade Mondiale head in Manila lawyer Eric Mallonga, longtime Amade benefactor Dr. Stephen Zuelig and BMW president Dr. Jorg Breuer.

## So Chanel

The ballroom's décor wasn't opulent, either. Robert Biancadori just decked the tables with elegant white roses. So Chanel, the princess' favored designer.

The royal herself was no pomp and pageantry. One look at her and it became obvious to the guests how simple she was.

A muse of Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, she was in austere black, her hair a traditional bob. She is an icon following in the footsteps of her mom, the late Princess Grace, who herself was behind Amade Mondiale and who, as the Hollywood goddess Grace Kelly, was one of the icons of the 20th century.

## Woman of style

Princess Caroline has grown quite a

distance from just being one of the world's women of style. From being on the world's best dressed list, she plunged into humanitarian work for children worldwide.

On this trip, the Princess apparently traveled light. She was alone on the flight, her two bodyguards flying in ahead of her to meet her at the airport. She had only one piece of luggage—"but the real one, not fake," said a wag.

## Yoga

At her private dinner with the Viranle Foundation and the event committee organizers, held on her first night here, she came in a Chanel suit in black and white, a cross pendant being her only accessory.

At some moments she shared a smoke with some event committee insiders. Asked if her hectic schedule wore her down, she said she did yoga and that seemed enough.

## Committed Filipinos

Lemay first came to Manila in 1988 and made his commitment to help the street children. In the early '90s, the Kuok matriarch, Puan Sri Eileen Kuok,

introduced Marietta Santos to Lemay and asked Marietta to help Lemay start the foundation for Filipino children. Marietta has been with the foundation since then and was one of the movers of this event, for which she tapped the support of Meldy Cojuangco, banker Raul Manzano and Mary Prieto.

## Strong speech

Inno Sotto showed his collection, the same one from the Ayala Museum. A counterpoint to the fashion show was the speech of Princess Caroline to cap the night. It was strong and didn't mince words as she stressed the importance of children in our future—the children, she said, are the essence of a country's and the world's future.

But more than that, she stressed the importance of protecting children's rights and punishing violations against them. She was emphatic about applying the full force of the law for the protection of children.

After her speech, hardly had the royal returned to her seat than the Pinoy gave vent to his passion—"kodakan." Truly Pinoy.

# Military enraged by Miriam charges

From page A1

"unexplained wealth."

J-1 is for Personnel; J-2, Intelligence; J-3, Operations; J-4, Logistics; J-5, Plans; J-6, Comptroller; J-7, Civil Military Operations; J-8, Training; J-9, AFP Modernization; K-10, Reservists, and J-11, Communications.

## Tone down attacks

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked political leaders to tone down their attacks on the military.

"We are determined to bring grafters to justice in the Armed Forces but I would like to appeal, in fairness to the Filipino soldier and the command, for a good measure of rhetorical restraint among our political leaders," Ms Arroyo, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said.

The President said she had ordered court-martial proceedings against Garcia to start at once and vowed to "leave no stone unturned in the full investigation and trial" of corrupt military officers. "But let us not drench the uniform in dishonor for the wayward acts of a few."

## Charged with 'idiocy'

Adan's statements did not sit well with Santiago.

The senator said the AFP spokesperson was accusing her of treason. "I am accusing him of idiocy."

"(T)he term enemies of a state has a historical connotation of oppression and tyranny, that those who hold the military might are intimidating the population when they invent the fiction of the so-called enemy of the state," Santiago said.

She told Adan that he should not expect to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which will have an organizational meeting today. "He can therefore forget all about becoming

## Biazon won't inhibit in Senate probe

ALTHOUGH he had thought of inhibiting himself from the Senate inquiry, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would proceed to chair one of two Senate committees tasked with investigating Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's claim of systematic corruption in the military.

Biazon said this was because Santiago had somehow cleared him of involvement in her accusation that the AFP was run by a "Gang of 12."

Santiago's speech was referred to the Senate committees on finance and on national defense.

Biazon, who chairs the national defense committee, said he had thought of inhibiting himself from the hearing because he had served as AFP chief of staff in the Aquino administration.

But he sought the advice of Santiago about this during the interpellation on her speech. Santiago told him to proceed with investigating her accusations in his committee.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., for his part, urged Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to "seize the initiative in dismantling the web of corruption" in the AFP instead of staying on the sidelines and relying on other officials to do the job.

Pimentel said that Cruz, who took over the helm of the Department of National Defense more than two months ago, could not do a Poncius Pilate on the unexplained wealth charges against Garcia and other ranking AFP officers.

"Secretary Cruz has been keeping a sphinx-like silence over the scandal and I am wondering why. If he keeps acting that way, he will be marginalized not only in the eyes of the Armed Forces but also in the eyes of the people," he said.

Adan added that Santiago's accusations were "not substantiated."

Adan said the AFP was already crafting plans to correct the problems that had been identified by the Davide Commission and the Feliciano Commission. The commissions, which were formed after the coup attempts by the Reform the Armed

Land Bank of the Philippines, 12 accounts in Allied Banking Corp., one account at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, two accounts in Bank of the Philippine Islands, eight accounts in United Coconut Planters Bank, six accounts at Planters Development Bank and four in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

But many of the accounts were reportedly closed on "one day" between Oct. 7 and Oct. 14.

## 'Cowardly' tipsters

He said Santiago's "tipsters," who he said might also be officers, should "come out in the open instead of cowardly going to just any politician. The solutions should come from the inside with the help of other institutions."

Adan said the AFP was already crafting plans to correct the problems that had been identified by the Davide Commission and the Feliciano Commission. The commissions, which were formed after the coup attempts by the Reform the Armed

Forces Movement during the Aquino administration and the coup staged by the Magdalo coup last year, respectively, had identified the problems facing the AFP.

Adan said the problems of the AFP could not be solved overnight and likened the AFP to a large ship trying to come to a full stop. "Before it could stop it must first glide slowly. You cannot have an abrupt stop."

## No rush to the defense

Earlier in the day, Malacañang made clear it won't rush to the defense of the top 12 military officials whom Santiago accused of corruption.

In an RMN interview yesterday morning, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was up to the military officials to explain their positions on Santiago's exposé.

"We cannot defend them because the President's position on graft in government is very clear," Bunye said. He said the President did not condone corruption in any branch of the government.

## Independent commission

In the Senate, Santiago's proposal to create an independent commission to "investigate and reform" the Armed Forces is gaining support.

Taking a cue from the privilege speech of Santiago, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan yesterday filed Senate Bill No. 1823 to give flesh to the proposal and establish "rules of procedure" for the fact-finding commission.

Under the bill, the commission will have the power to examine any bank deposit, trust or investment fund, and banking transaction. It will be composed of a retired Supreme Court justice, two senators, two congressmen, a retired AFP official and a private sector representative.

With reports from Juliet Labog-Javelana and Christine O. Avendaño

# Garcia withdrew P38M two days after story broke

From page A1

no court order yet," he told reporters.

Osmeña was referring to the absence of a freeze order at that time on the bank accounts of Garcia.

The eight bank accounts in the UCPB were in the name of Garcia, his wife Clarita and their children Ian Carl, 26; Juan Paolo, 23, and Timothy Mark, 21.

Six of the bank accounts were peso deposits amounting to P21.6 million, while two others were dollar deposits with a peso equivalent of P17 million.

Garcia's bank account had P4.6 million; his sons Timothy, Ian Clark and Juan Paolo had P4.28 million each, and his wife had P1 million.

The two dollar accounts were in the name of Garcia and his wife with balances of \$101,169 and \$202,338, respectively.

## 'Suspicious' accounts

Osmeña said the UCPB branch reported via e-mail to the UCPB anti-money laundering unit the existence of Garcia's bank accounts on Oct. 6, a day after news reports came out on the corruption charges against the former AFP comptroller.

But it was only on Oct. 12 that UCPB reported to the Amla in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas about the bank accounts, he said.

## US assets frozen

The Office of the Ombudsman has asked the US Department of Justice to freeze all the assets of Garcia and his family in the United States, including deposits in banks and various real estate properties.

"We have asked the US government through the US Embassy to freeze the as-

sets of the Garcias in the US," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo told the INQUIRER during a break in the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council conference sponsored by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Ombudsman's letter was addressed to Jeffrey Cole, the US justice attaché at the US Embassy in Manila.

"We are asking the US DOJ to freeze the assets of the Garcias, subject to the existing rules and regulations of the US," said the Ombudsman official who sent the letter to Cole.

According to the official, who asked not to be named, the US justice and customs offices were already investigating the assets of Garcia in the United States.

A report by the Office of the Ombudsman said the Garcias brought some P44 million into the US between 1993 and 2004.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) had identified three pieces of real estate owned by Garcia in the United States—a \$765,000 Trump Park Avenue Condominium at 502 Park Avenue, New York City; a \$750,000 apartment at 222 East 34th Street, also in New York City, and a house at 625 Vancouver Drive, Westerville, Ohio, of undetermined value.

## Local assets, too

At the same time, the Ombudsman has started moves to seize the local assets of the Garcias.

The official said the Office of the Ombudsman may file by this week the forfeiture case against the Garcias in the Sandiganbayan.

The Court of Appeals froze 40 bank accounts and investment placements of the Garcias on Oct. 14.

These included seven accounts in

Land Bank of the Philippines, 12 accounts in Allied Banking Corp., one account at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, two accounts in Bank of the Philippine Islands, eight accounts in United Coconut Planters Bank, six accounts at Planters Development Bank and four in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

But many of the accounts were reportedly closed on "one day" between Oct. 7 and Oct. 14.

## Amend Amla

Osmeña said he would push for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act to ensure that the AMLC would move faster in freezing suspicious bank accounts.

He also said that UCPB should have reported Garcia's bank accounts earlier since they contained money deemed "suspicious" given the huge amounts.

"And obviously when you have in one branch alone the equivalent of P38 million ... that is cause for suspicion and they never reported this," Osmeña said, as he admitted that the bank could be held liable for it.

Osmeña said because of the Garcia case, he doubted whether the Financial Action Task Force would remove the Philippines from its watchlist of countries not cooperating in the global fight against money laundering.

## 30-man special audit team

Marcelo said he would start next week the formation of an inter-agency team that would conduct a "special fraud audit" of "all military contracts" inked by the Armed Forces of the Philippines with contractors and suppliers during Garcia's tenure as AFP comptroller from 2001 to 2004.

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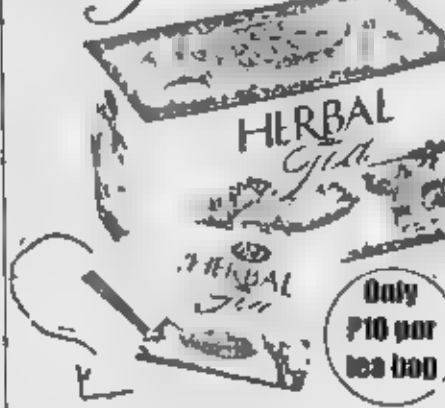
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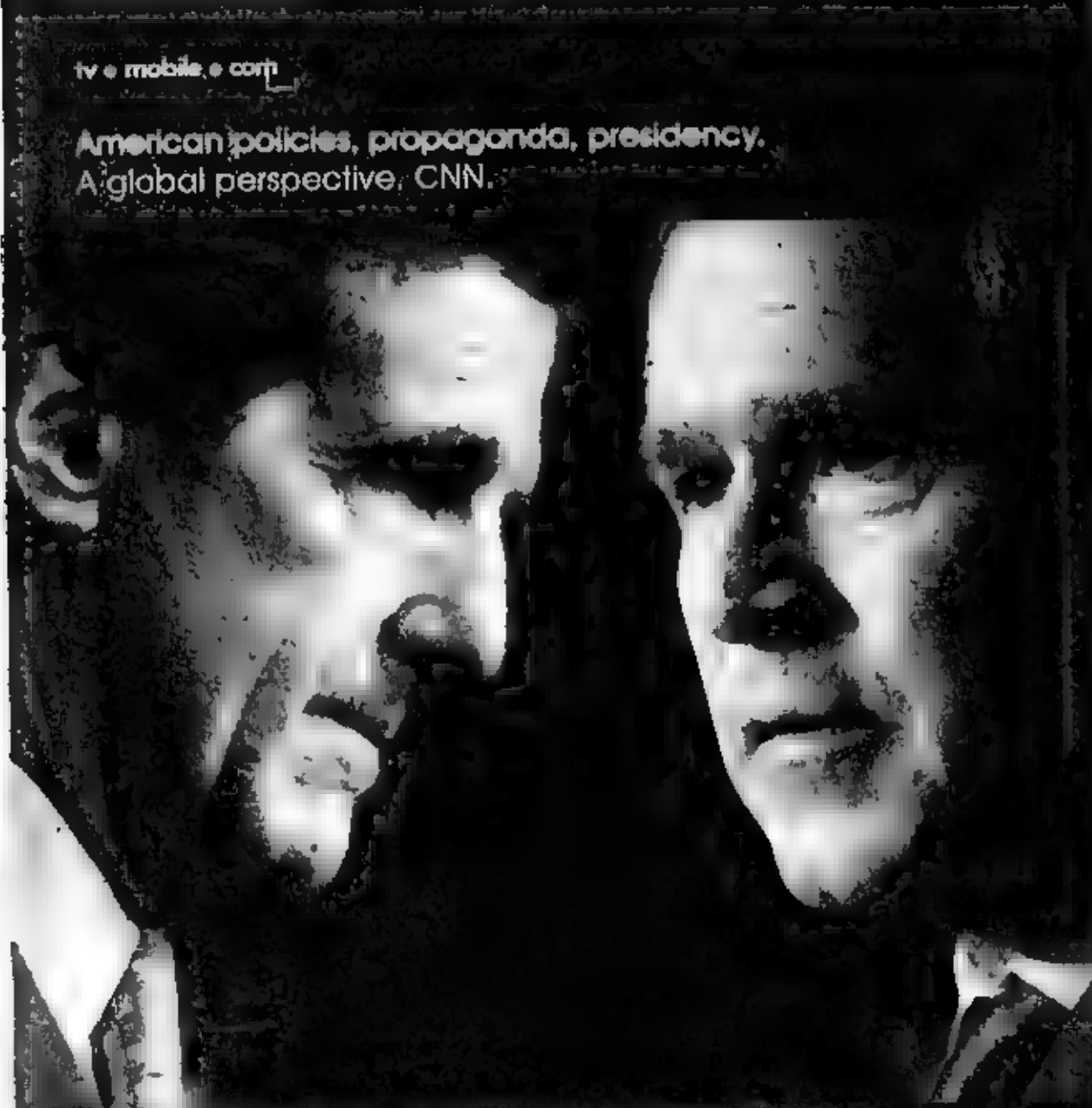
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# Davide: Don't just stand there, help fight graft

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DON'T stand on the sidelines. You, too, can help fight corruption by turning into a whistle-blower.

Noting the nation's "shock" at reports on the unexplained wealth of a senior Armed Forces officer, Chief Justice Hilario Davide urged citizens yesterday to share whatever information they had about grafters, saying their indifference made them as guilty as the corrupt officials they condemned.

"In waging this war [on corruption], every bit of knowledge and information concerning the enemy would be valuable to give us an advantage over it and crash it in shameful and lasting defeat," he said.

## Still in touch

Davide mentioned no one by name but he left little doubt as to who he was referring to when he said that the "nation is still in shock over reports of graft and corruption committed by a high ranking official of the Philippine military."

Davide's speech at a conference held by the United Nations Development Program coincided with a congressional inquiry into the alleged unexplained wealth of former Armed

Forces comptroller Maj Gen Carlos Garcia.

One lawmaker had estimated Garcia's assets at about P200 million.

"Doing nothing when we could have done something good and right is no different from committing the evil act itself," said the chief magistrate.

## Sin of omission

"The sin of omission is as grave as the sin of commission," he said.

Davide spoke at the UNDP forum dubbed "Tapat Palakad," a series of multi-sectoral fora and workshops on government reforms.

Yesterday's conference held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, focused on the anticorruption campaign, with an audience that included government auditors, civil service officials and graft investigators.

Davide conceded that the Philippines was now stuck with the "perception" that it was a graft-ridden country, especially in the wake of an international survey which ranked it as the 11th most corrupt among 146 states.

The ranking has already created such a negative image for the country "whether it is founded on reliable empirical data or not," he said.

# Miriam fires guns . . .

From page A1

to declare [their] status as corrupt generals' wives," Santiago said.

Responding to Santiago's scorching speech on Monday, Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday said that contrary to the picture painted by the senator that the military had become a milking cow for the top brass, he had actually imposed "austerity" measures during his two-year term as AFP chief of staff.

For one thing, it was not true that the AFP holds ballroom dancing parties, Abaya said at a conference on the anticorruption campaign of the United Nations Development Program, where he was one of the invited speakers.

"Never in my time did we have ballroom dancing or hired DJs (dance instructors) because I was so afraid of my wife," he said, managing to make light of the matter and drawing laughs from an audience that included state auditors and graft investigators.

Abaya also said he had actually "cut down on certain events and socials," scrapping even the "extravagant" annual AFP Olympics in order to reduce expenses.

## Trial by publicity

According to Abaya, who is set to retire in two days, the military has fallen victim to "trial by publicity and political grandstanding."

He said he had been "personally devastated" by the controversy stemming from the unexplained wealth of the former AFP comptroller, Maj Gen. Carlos Garcia, more so because it erupted as he was about to retire.

He also said the issue had been "covered more than enough" in the media and had been "muddled by speculation and innuendos."

If Garcia's case is "left hanging and unresolved, it is our officers, men and women, who will continue to be victims of disrespect by those whose perceptions are shaped by trial by publicity and political grandstanding," Abaya said.

In her privilege speech, Santiago said the AFP was being run by the "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11).

She said some of these generals who had turned politician "ceaselessly try until now to cover themselves with synthetic glory, by using their ill-gotten wealth to continue to publicize themselves."

She also said the alleged gang was leading the "Mafia" or the "mob" in the AFP that had institutionalized corruption since the martial law days through the unlawful practices of "clearance" and "conversion."

This corruption, she said, had resulted in yearly losses to the AFP of about P2 billion.

## Euphemisms

Santiago had defined "clearance" and "conversion" as euphemisms for the crimes of, respectively, falsification of public documents and misappropriation of public funds (or plunder if the amount pocketed is at least P50 million).

She said J-3 (Operations) was the "richest source of graft money," and J-4 (Logistics), the "most conspicuous venue for graft" because its office was filled daily with "Filipino-Chinese, sexy and trashy women, and the special friends of wives of corrupt generals."

In her privilege speech, Santiago cited an example in J-1 (Personnel), which is in charge of salaries, hospitals and welfare.

"The welfare funds, instead of being spent for the welfare of soldiers and their families, are realigned," a euphemism for canceling the welfare project and purportedly using the money for another project or activity, which is fictitious," she said.

By her account, the biggest anomaly in J-1 takes place in military hospitals.

"Medicines are grossly overpriced, but the syndicate concentrates on purchasing only fast moving drugs, making it very hard to check the inventory and the consumption of drugs. Military hospitals are the favorite milking cow of wives of chiefs of staff," she said.

Santiago said that if "Mrs. Chief of Staff" consented to become the patron of a certain medicine supplier, she would contact the hospital commander to extend the usual courtesies to this supplier.

"Usual courtesies" is a military euphemism for rigging the bidding in favor of the identified medicine supplier, the senator said, adding:

"When the supplier duly 'wins' the bidding, sometimes he delivers no drugs at all. Instead, Mrs. Chief of Staff will receive a cash reward of more or less P100 million."

## Millions in savings

Abaya said that when he took over, he inherited an P83-million phone bill that had accumulated since 1993.

For this, he said, he ordered scores of phone lines cut starting with Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP General Headquarters. The camp alone has been saving around P400,000 a month on phone bills since then, he reported.

He also closed down the offices of four defense attachés abroad, saving the AFP another "P5 million a month."

And to conserve expensive ammunition, he said, he also did away with the gun salutes traditionally performed for chiefs of staff as part of arrival honors.

Addressing his fellow career government officials, Abaya said: "You can probably empathize with or relate to my experience. Corruption has a way of destroying the names, careers and reputations not only of the corrupt and the [corrupted], but also those of the innocent and well-meaning."

## Unfounded rumors

"Specially when unfounded rumors find their way in big bold prints to [the newspapers'] front pages, while the recitation of errors and apologies [and] on the second read pages."

# SC rules court-martial . . .

From page A1

over them and they asked the high court to order their immediate release.

The tribunal, however, agreed with the Office of the Solicitor General that Pimentel had erred in his ruling.

It said that the soldiers' Sept. 23, 2003, omnibus motion asking Pimentel to assume jurisdiction over the charges lodged against them in the military court had been made "moot and academic" by the Nov. 14 decision of Judge Romeo Barza to dismiss the charges against the 290 mutineers for lack of evidence.

"It had become moot with respect to those whose charges against them were dismissed, including (the petitioners), because they were no longer parties to the case," the high court said.

## No solace for mutineers

"Indeed, as they were no longer parties to the case, no further relief could be granted to them," it added.

Barza initially tried the case against the soldiers before it was consolidated with the case against former Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas in Pimentel's sala.

"Thus, (the petitioners), who are no longer charged with coup d'etat, cannot find solace in the declaration (of Pimentel) that the charges filed before the general court-martial against them

were not service-connected," the high court said.

## Superfluity

"The same is a superfluity and cannot be given effect for having been made by (Pimentel) without or in excess of (his) jurisdiction."

The high court also pointed out that Pimentel's order violated Republic Act No. 7055, which "explicitly specifies" that the charges against the soldiers were considered "service-connected crimes or offenses."

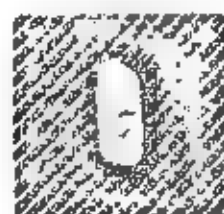
It added that the law "vests on military courts" the jurisdiction over these offenses.

The soldiers were earlier charged with mutiny (Articles of War 67), conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (AW 97), conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (AW 96), disrespect to the President, the Secretary of Defense, etc (AW 63), and disrespect toward superior officer (AW 64).

## Mandate

"It is clear that RA 7055 did not divest the military courts of jurisdiction to try cases involving violations of Articles 54 to 70, Articles 72 to 92 and Articles 95 to 97 of the Articles of War as these are considered 'service-connected crimes or offenses,'" the court said.

"In fact, it mandates that these shall be tried by the court-martial," it added.



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## THREE BLAZES

## Fire guts Rustan's Taguig warehouse

By Nancy C. Carraval, Tina G. Santos  
and Ruth L. Navarra

IMPORTED merchandise worth P15 million went up in flames when fire gutted a warehouse of Rustan's Department Store at the FTI Complex in Taguig.

The three-hour blaze was only one of three fires that hit Metro Manila late Monday and early yesterday.

A Rustan's company official said the fire de-

stroyed shipments of perfumes, lotions and other bottled products.

"It was one of the three warehouses of Rustan's," the official added.

No one was hurt, but municipal fire chief Senior Insp. Virgilio B. de la Paz estimated the damage at P15 million.

De la Paz said fire broke out at 10:45 p.m. at the ceiling of the second floor of the two-level building.

"May sumiklab (There was a flash)," the Rustan's official said.

Rustan's had been occupying the warehouse for 24 years.

The entire second floor, which was made of wood, was destroyed and 75 percent of the ground floor was also razed, De la Paz said.

He said burnt samples from the warehouse would be taken to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory to determine the cause of the blaze.

### Arson not ruled out

"We are not ruling out anything yet, including sabotage and arson," he said.

The fire was placed under control at 1:55 a.m.

De la Paz said their station was only 100 meters from the warehouse, but their only fire truck was busy putting out a brush fire which broke out inside the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

At 3 a.m., a suspected gas tank explosion triggered a blaze that razed more than 50 houses in a densely populated community in front of the Sandiganbayan building in Quezon City.

A five-year-old boy was hurt while at least 100 families were rendered homeless by the three-hour fire.

Raymond Cabllan, of St. Vincent Street, Barangay Holy Spirit, experienced difficulty breathing, arson investigators said.

Investigation showed that the fire started at the house of a certain Gavino Hermosora on St. Vincent Street.

### A loud explosion

Prior to the blaze, residents heard a loud explosion, which they suspect was from an exploding gas tank.

Authorities, however, said they were still investigating the cause of the fire that destroyed an estimated P1 million in property.

In Barangay Rosario, Pasig City, a three-year-old child accidentally set fire to some clothes while playing with a lighter at about 8:40 a.m., said Insp. Norberte Salvador.

The fire quickly spread and razed 35 houses. The fire was put out at 10:10 a.m.

Two firemen, Insp. Rodel Nota and P01 Leonardo Prado, suffered slight injuries. Both were from the Pasig City Fire Department. Damage was estimated at P5 million.

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# SPORTS

## PBL newcomers in telling debuts

By Jasmine W. Payo

**THE LEAGUE newcomers are no easy preys.**

Jerome Paterno knocked in the game-winning basket with 22.6 seconds left as Air Philippines soared to an 81-80 upset of Addict Mobile-Ate- neo in its maiden voyage yesterday in the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

Paterno finished with 18 points to lead the Flight, who trailed by 11 early in the fourth quarter.

"I cannot ask for more," said Flight coach Lawrence Chongson. "Unlike other teams that are school-based, ours is a selection. We only had less than two weeks of practice so it was all heart."

Granny Goose Tortillos made it a day of the newcomers by creaming ICTSI-La Salle, 75-66, in a physical second game.

Toni Almeda topscored with 16 points, while Ronald Capati and Ardy Larong added 11 apiece for the Tortillos.

"We only had three days of practice together but the team had intensity. *Yung lang ang pangalan namin ngayon* (That's our only weapon right now)," said Granny Goose coach Jun Tan.

The Cebu-based Granny Goose squad took a 47-39 edge off a 16-7 tear in the third quarter before pulling away, 66-50, in the final period.

ICTSI-La Salle's Mac Cardona was thrown out in the fourth quarter for elbowing Tortillos' Marvin Cruz. Teammate Jerwin Gaco was also slapped an unsportsmanlike foul for hitting Almeda.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad is to decide today whether Cardona and Gaco will be suspended in ICTSI-La Salle's game against Addict Mobile-Ate- neo on Saturday.

Air Philippines trailed, 72-61, until the trio of Paterno, Fil-Am Mike Holper and Yousif Aljamal combined in a 15-5 run to wrest the lead, 77-76, in the final four minutes.

LA Paterno gave the lead back to Ate- neo, 80-79, with 55.3 seconds to go before Paterno came away with his winning layup.

Ate- neo still had a chance to steal the ballgame after a Flight turnover, but Jason Castro and JC Intal missed their baskets in the dying seconds.

**THE SCORES:**

**First Game**

**AIR PHILIPPINES 81—Paterno 18, Holper 14, Aljamal 12,**



Habalde 10, Epondolan 7, Vlacara 7, Almeda 6, Te 5, Pua 2, Tolentino 0.

**ADDICT MOBILE-ATE-NEO 80—** Medina 18, Castro 13,

Tenorio 11, Mendoza 9, Bugio 8, Sanz 8, Altad 5, Intal 4, Espinas 4, Membre 2.

**Quarters:** 23-21, 41-45, 57-60, 81-80

**GRANNY GOOSE 75—** Almeda 16, Capati 11, Larong 11,

Laneta 9, Quiñahan 8, Grijaldo 7, Santos 3, Baltes 3, Cervantes 3,

Latonio 2, Cruz 2

**ICTSI-LA SALLE 66—** Yeo 19, Cardona 15, Caballe 6, Tang 6,

Casio 6, Gaco 3, Araña 5, Benitez 4, Gaco 3, Gavino 2,

Aquino 0, Ganchalan 0, Warshaw 0.

**Quarters:** 19-18, 31-32, 58-47, 75-66

**GABBY Espinas**

(above) of Addict

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looks for the open

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Philippines

defenders in last

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Espinas, NCAA's

MVP and Rookie of

the Year, managed

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AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## Boom Boom and treasure finds in Tagbilaran

**TAGBILARAN CITY**—The sensational knock-out, scored right in the first round, appeared unreal. It could've come out of a movie script.

The hometown boy, now based in Cebu, returned home to fight before his townmates for the first time.

Rey Bautista, a bronze-faced, well-carved farmer's son, reigns as the WBO Pan-Asia bantamweight champion. He had won all his 11 previous professional fights, seven by knock-out.

There had been other boxing stars from Bohol like Bobby Berna, but the 18-year-old Bautista, nicknamed Boom Boom for his fire and flare inside the ring, was embraced here like he was already a celebrity as big as Manny Pacquiao.

\*\*\*

Well, the knockout, scored Sunday evening before a sweltering, full-house crowd, could have come later, maybe in the middle rounds, and it would've been perfectly fine.

But Bautista, in black robes, his head wrapped in a glossy black bandana, kept chanting, jabbing the air to lead the crowd into a frenzy.

He must've worked himself into a happy rage that, once he caught his fabled foe in a corner late in the first round, he bent a bit then dug three successive left blows to the ribs.

Boom, boom, boom! The Indon, who had won seven of his last eight fights, sank and fell as though it was the only time he had entered a boxing ring.

He was counted out on his back, and a stretcher had to be brought in.

There were fears he had suffered a broken bone.

\*\*\*

No, Bautista's flimsy WBO title, being likened to an Orient-Pacific diadem, was not at stake.

But the crowd savored the win as though Bautista had captured a full-sized world crown.

The impact of victory was total as Bautista rode the ropes and, much mightier now, pumped the air and goaded the triumphant, sweaty crowd into a delirium.

The screaming first-round knockout marked Bautista's 12th successive win against no losses.

And, although all that they had heard before Sunday was his raging, sensational stoppages of previous foes, Boom Boom's townmates were one in swearing that he's the next big thing in RP boxing.

\*\*\*

### BARE EYE

By Jasmine W. Payo

### Recab Trinidad



Your reporter here could only nod in half-agreement.

Boholanos, blessed with generous mountain, farms and sea, could be feeling like they have a treasure somewhere around here in the gifted Bautista.

In fact, Bautista's chief patron and handler, Tony Aldeguez of the tested and famous ALA Gym in Cebu, should be hailed for again digging deep and surfacing with another world-class find.

Indeed, Bautista, with a big heart, the rare boom-boom behind his punches, could also be a national treasure.

The good thing here is that Aldeguez, who has put Bautista under a boxing scholarship in a team-up with Tagbilaran Mayor Dan Lim Neri, has acknowledged that the young boxer must breathe deeper down to his navel area, seat of the so-called *chi*, in launching his killer blows.

\*\*\*

Bautista, using the shoulder pad as spring-board of his punches, has greatly diminished his total worth.

He did try the new technique, adopted by the likes of Muhammad Ali, and the teenage wonder, now breathing more freely, was amazed at how he was also able to move a lot better with his feet.

Knowing Tony Aldeguez, who's gifted with a sharp technical eye, Bautista should find no trouble shifting to the tried-and-tested style.

Anyway, Randy Suico's successful third defense of his OPBF super featherweight title in Cebu City on Saturday has indeed sent a piece of joy to his poor townmates.

In Bautista's case however, he fought so mightily that, although he could still be a couple of years to a world crown, he had visibly succeeded in making those around him feel truly triumphant.

Of course, nobody could feel more rewarded than first-time visitors to Tagbilaran.

A short, quiet boat ride from the shnek of cruel commerce in Cebu, the sweet serenity of this orderly city of sea, sunshine and sincere smiles is indeed a treasure of a find.

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## Jao, Carapiet clinch titles at BRC

ROSARIO, Batangas—Joler Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki and Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport captured the overall crown in their respective classes Sunday in the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Jao, though finishing only second in the last two races, clinched the Shell Advance Superbikes Series for an unprecedented eighth time.

Carapiet swept the two races to claim the Formula Toyota Cup, his second major plum after ruling the KT Light class in last year's Shell Superkarting Series. The day actually belonged to Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex, who upset Jao twice in three thrilling Superbike races. Jao accumulated 255 points to emerge overall champion in the series. Mendoza wound up second with 218 points, fol-

lowed by Ibi Alberto with 162.

Toting a precarious 16-point lead at the start of the races, Carapiet won twice over Michelle Bumgarner.

Carapiet totaled 174 points, with Bumgarner settling for 141. Gabby de la Merced finished third overall with 131.

Clinching the other titles were Aries Padiernos (Novice category) and Jade Lazaro (Sub-400cc).

## Pastor breaks Batangas lap mark

ROSARIO, Batangas—Team T.E.C. Speedwelle driver Enzo Pastor of Petron Bench Boysen McGills broke the lap record for Group N1 touring cars at the Batangas Racing Circuit Sunday, clocking 1 minute 48.6 seconds in a Honda EK N1 he borrowed from team manager Ferdie Ong.

Pastor eclipsed the previous record of 1:48.90, set by Kookoo Ramirez, while engag-

ing Jody Coseteng in a tight battle in Race 9 of the Philippine National Touring Car Series.

The performance gave Pastor great satisfaction following what he claimed were erroneous published reports blaming him for Coseteng's recent string of losses.

Pastor said the absence of any protest or incident report from Coseteng's team is proof that the allegations were baseless.

## RP suffers 3rd straight defeat

### Paragua, Senador yield to Estonians

The leaders after 10 rounds:

Open (129 teams): 29.0—Ukraine; 27.0—Russia; 26.5—Armenia; 26.0—United States; 25.0—Azerbaijan, Cuba; 24.5—Switzerland; 24.0—India, Bulgaria, Slovakia, France, China, Czech Republic, Moldova, Poland, Serbia Montenegro, Canada; 23.5—Georgia, Spain A, Estonia, Hungary, Belarus; 23.0—Lithuania, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Latvia, Sweden; 22.5—Germany, Greece, Australia, Lithuania, Denmark, Norway, Vietnam; 22.0—Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, Iceland; 21.5—Philippines, England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia, IPCA

MALLORCA, Spain—International Master Jayson Gonzales and rookie Darwin Laylo salvaged hard-earned draws, but the Philippines still absorbed a stinging 3-1 defeat to Estonia Monday in the 10th round of the World Chess Olympiad.

International Master Mark Paragua stumbled at the top board, while National Master Emmanuel Senador misplayed a drawish endgame at Board 3 as the Filipinos plunged into a share of 40th place with England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia and IPCA.

The Filipinos, who lost to Azerbaijan, 1-3, Sunday and to Poland by the same score Saturday now have 21.5 and need a big score against IPCA Tuesday to resuscitate their faltering campaign.

Surprisingly, the mood is still upbeat in the Philippine camp. "We're going to strike hard today," vowed RP team captain Sammy Estino, hours before the start of the 11th round.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio, who took an extended four-day rest, returns to action to play the first board.

The absence of GM Eugene Torre and Antonio took its toll on the brave Filipino side.

First to fall was Paragua, who bowed to veteran GM Jean Ehlvest (2631) in 45 moves of a Slav defense.

Playing black, the 20-year-old GM-candidate was forced to give up a piece for two pawns early on. He managed to hold the Estonian at bay until finally capitulating following precise play by white.

It was Paragua's second loss in the tournament. Gonzales, the regular Board 4 player, missed a winning middlegame in his English encounter with IM Aleksandr Veingoldt and bowed hard in the endgame to save a draw despite a pawn down after 82 moves.



GM Joey Antonio finally returns to action today.

The Filipino yielded a pawn to give his two bishops room to maneuver, but overlooked a rook move that would have won him a piece.

As a result, Veingoldt managed to reduce the game into an endgame pitting his knight and four pawns against Gonzales' bishop and three pawns. Laylo, the reigning national champion, won the exchange in a slambang King's Indian battle with IM Tarvo Seeman, but was unable to press home the win and settled for an 80-move draw.

Senador's loss to IM Olav Sepp broke the hearts of the Filipinos. He inexplicably gave up his lone outside passed pawn under time pressure, allowing Sepp to run away with the victory.

Meanwhile, Ukraine drew with the United States to jack up its total to 29 points, two ahead of Russia, which edged France, 2.5-1.5.


Armenia routed Slovenia, 3.5-0.5, to gain sole third place, half-a-point ahead of the US.

In women's play the Filipinas dropped a 2-1 loss to Bosnia Herzegovina.

WIM Beverly Mendoza and Lorestyl Gazon drew with Sanja Dedijer and Nada Sirkar Nada, respectively.

WFM Sherrie Joy Lomibao, however, lost to WIM Elena Titova-Bovic at Board 1.

The Filipinas slipped to a tie for 57th spot with Brazil with 14 points, 10.5 points behind precessing China.



# LGBA

## Stag Series 2004

### 1st LEG Leg Champion Trophy

#### 7-STAG DERBY

September 25, 2004  
1st Elimination Round (3-Stag): Rolyon Mega Cockpit

September 27, 2004  
2nd Elimination Round (3-Stag): Aroneta Coliseum

September 29, 2004  
Final Round (4-Stag): Aroneta Coliseum

### 2nd LEG Leg Champion Trophy

#### 7-STAG DERBY

October 12, 2004  
Elimination Round (3-Stag): Aroneta Coliseum

October 14, 2004  
Final Round (4-Stag): Aroneta Coliseum

### 3rd LEG Leg Champion Trophy

#### 7-STAG DERBY

October 25, 2004  
Elimination Round (3-Stag): Rolyon Mega Cockpit

October 27, 2004  
Championship Round (4-Stag): Rolyon Mega Cockpit

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## WORLD SERIES

## Curse and eclipse hover over Boston

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—A total eclipse of the full moon during Game 4 of the World Series here Wednesday could be a dark omen for Boston's seemingly cursed Red Sox or mean 'lights out' for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Seeking their first title since 1918, the Red Sox, who will start Pedro Martinez in Game 3, own a 2-0 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final entering game three here Tuesday. They could complete a sweep Wednesday to end the legendary 86-year drought.

The Red Sox have not won a title since selling star Babe Ruth to the rival New York Yankees in 1919, while the Yankees have won a record 26 crowns since. Some explain the drought as a "Curse of the Bambino" for snubbing Ruth.

This will be the first Series game played while a lunar eclipse is visible, although a similar heavenly event came on the eve of the 1986 Series—one that produced an epic moment of heartbreak for the Red Sox and their devoted fans.

One out from winning the Series, the Red Sox squandered a two-run lead and lost game six to the New York Mets when an easy ground ball rolled between first baseman Bill Buckner's legs. The Mets won the game and the Series.

Could the eclipse be the curse returning to frustrate Boston again? Or might



MARTINEZ: Game 3 starter

the full moon vanishing be Ruth's final wink before his ghost bids farewell, haunting the haunting just four days before Halloween?

Odd things have already happened this year in baseball, the most spectacular of them coming when Boston made the greatest playoff comeback in history by rallying from a 0-3 hole to oust the Yankees in the American League final.

The Red Sox made four errors in each of the first two Series games and still won both—despite stranding 21 base runners.

The Cardinals saw star batters Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen go hitless in nine trips to the plate with runners in scoring positions. St. Louis had a fielder hit by a ball on a bad hop and a runner miss tagging second base.

Could the baseball gods be saying "Bye Bye Birdies"?

"It's baseball. Just baseball," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "It wasn't anything from the gods."

Yet stars and stargazers alike will cast eyes to the heavens Wednesday at Busch Stadium despite forecasts of scattered rain showers.

The eclipse will begin just before the game starts, the moon's color taking on a reddish hue—the ruby orb a perfect lunatic lighting for a crimson showdown between the Red Sox and a club named for red birds.

As the game enters the crucial final innings, the moon is expected to be in full eclipse.

La Russa does not plan on his club's tide chances disappearing in the night.

"We're a championship club," La Russa said. "One of the things we've done all along is if we get down we find a way to get back in it."

The Cardinals have won all six home playoff games this year but the Red Sox, who have won six playoff games in a row, do not want their advantage in the Series to become gone with the moon.

"We know what we have to do. We're not going to sit on this," said Red Sox closing relief pitcher Keith Foulke. **APF**



HANG TIME: Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant floats his way through the defense of Seattle SuperSonics' Antonio Daniels in a preseason match. The Lakers won, 117-91.

## Dutch striker says he's innocent

LONDON—Ruud van Nistelrooy says he is innocent of charges he tried deliberately to hurt Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole during Manchester United's controversial 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The Netherlands international has been charged with serious foul play by the Football Association for kicking the England defender on the knee and could face a three-match ban.

However, van Nistelrooy told The Sun: "We both just went for the ball. It was a 50-50 ball and in these situations two players can collide."

Van Nistelrooy's challenge, missed by referee Mike Riley, was branded "a disgrace" by BBC TV pundit and former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen.

They also brought a "cheat" jibe from manager Arsene Wenger, which is thought to have played some part in a tunnel fracas that erupted after the game that ended Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run.

"Van Nistelrooy can only cheat people—we know him very well," said Wenger. **APF**

## Tiny Saragoza walks tall with 66

By Musing R. Castillo

CANLUBANG—Tiny Boyer Saragoza fired a brilliant six-under-par 66 yesterday using a new driver to zoom to the first-round lead in the Canlubang Amateur championships at the North Course.

With his downswing improved by Tony Arevalo and the driver given him by the caddy-turned-businessman finding all the fairways, Saragoza shot seven

birdies against a bogey to take a 3-shot lead over Raymond Sangil.

The 31-year-old veteran of the Putra Cup and Singapore Amateur campaigns had a 32-34 card, the only blemish coming at the par-3 15th where he failed to rescue par from the greenside trap.

Sangil shot a 69 after going three-under coming in.

Riviera standout Marvin Dumandan fired a 71 for third spot, one shot ahead

of Ronnie Torrecampo.

Korean Kim Chang Hoi occupied fifth after a 73, with Rufino Bayron, Jay's younger brother, sixth after a 74.

Meanwhile, Jay Bayron, Erwin Vinluan and RP Amateur champion Jun Bernis tee off tomorrow in the Hong Kong Amateur championships. In Puerto Rico, Juvic Pagunsan, Michael Bibat and Artemio Murakami open the country's bid in the World Amateurs, also tomorrow.

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# Cebu five forces winner-take-all

CEBU CITY—The Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) bounced back with a masterful 82-68 victory over Forward Taguig Monday night to forge a winner-take-all match for the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national title today at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Waxing hot from the second period, the Tribes took control at the turn, 42-34, and never looked back as they shot 51 percent from the field (36-for-76) while limiting the Taguig cagers to 40 percent on 25-for-63 shooting.

"We adjusted well, especially on defense," said Tribes coach Al Solis. "The boys simply refused to go down."

The two teams dash anew at 6 p.m. today with the winner emerging as the first NBC national champion.

The victory extended to 10-0 the homecourt record of the Tribes of businessman Lito Gilam, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado.

Mayor Freddie Tunga's Taguig five groped for the form which enabled it to win Game 1, 73-68, last Friday. Coach Danny Gavieres' boys fell behind by 24 in the final quarter.

Meanwhile, Ozamiz's pointguard, Egay Echavez, was named NBC most valuable player and made it to the Mythical Five together with Cebu's Chico Lanete and Alfie Grijaldo, Iloilo's Francis Sanz and Taguig's Jimboy Robulos.

Batangas' Harold Sta. Cruz bagged the Defensive Player of the Year award.

Cagayan de Oro's Julius Navales got the Find of the Year plum while the Ryan Ancheta Sportsman-ship Award went to Batangas' Nelson Gonzales.

The scores:  
CEBU 82—Grijaldo 15, Dela Rosa 12, Mercado 12, Piodo 10, Lanete 7, Larong 6, Tanglay 5, Bucan 5, Sanders 4, Almacin 2, Concha 2, Galinato 2, Licardo 0, Elfin 0.

TAGUIG 68—Robulos 12, Piazabenta 11, De Gula 11, Villar 9, Alberto 7, Gantelay 6, Magsanbol 6, Reyes 4, Mugal 2, Roldan 0, Magsalin 0, Dumopo 0.  
Quarters: 19-16, 42-34, 57-40, 62-68.

## Sangali tops Red Ribbon leg

JUMAARIN Mukaram, the Most Valuable Player in the recent Zamboanga leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta, hit the back of the net in the 11th minute to lead the Sangali Football Club to a 1-0 victory over the Talisara Football Club in the final of the city's premiere U-14 tournament recently.

Mukaram, a fisherman's son from the fishing port of Sangali, 38 kilometers east of Zamboanga City, broke through Talisara defenders and

scored what turned out to be the winning goal against Talisara FC (Talisayan/San Ramon Grade School).

Western Mindanao State University took 3rd place by virtue of its 2-1 victory over Claret A. The finals were graced by Councilor Elong Natividad, president of the Zamboanga City Sports Foundation, and Zamboanga Football Association president Teng Torres.

### SPORTSWATCH

#### 4-stag final tonight

LUZON'S toughest rooster-raisers fight it out with 60 all-important matches starting at 6 p.m. today at the Rorigon Mega Cockpit. Tonight's 4-stag championship is the deciding round of the LGBA Breeder of the Year battle. Sharing the lead with 13 points apiece are EDCR Top Gun of Edwin Ramos (Laguna) who moved up from 4th position and erstwhile 2nd placer Art J. Tuba of Councilor Tony Boy Tabora (Baguio City).



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Race 3—1. Ocean Cookie 2. Nigela's Joy 3. Schaeffer's  
4. Ichiro 5. Maria Po  
Race 4—1. Little Girl 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Shining Lancer 4. Playing With Fire  
Race 5—1. Social Missile 2. Stradivarius 3. Perfect Time  
4. Queen Malawi 5. Mr. Lucas  
Race 6—1. Rule and Regon 2. Holy King 3. Native Prince/Hamming Heart 4. Silver Dollar  
Race 7—1. American Beauty 2. Island King 3. Epic Energy  
4. Kiss Me Quick 5. Chase the Wind  
Race 8—1. Great Tower 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Sham Sham 4. Hurry Patten 5. Zavalon Mo 6. Gentleman's Lady

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# OUT OF REACH

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## Farina gets lucky

**NEW YORK**—Actor Dennis Farina's luck is beginning to turn around. The former Chicago police officer hadn't appeared in any major projects for some time, and then was forced to withdraw from "Collateral," the thriller starring Tom Cruise, after a car accident.

Then, Farina was recruited to join the cast of "Law & Order," after longtime fixture Jerry Orbach announced he was leaving to join a spinoff.

Farina says he was already a fan of the show and liked the emphasis on the crime stories rather than the characters' personal lives. He also was not worried about competition from other crime shows like "CSI."

"I just think 'Law & Order' is the gold standard," he told *The Times*. "History is going to show that it's probably one of the best series of shows that has been on television." AP

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**HOST:** Wasn't it difficult for you, joining this bikini competition? After all, it's not easy parading around in a small bikini!

**GUEST:** No, not really. I used to be a swimmer in school, so I'm used to walk around in almost naked.

(Ay, in almost naked?)

**Host:** Aren't you sorry that you caused 'so' much scandal with your sexy pictorial?

**Guest:** Well, kahit masama ang ginawa ko, sana makatulong ako sa problema ng bansa.

(And how can your sexy pictorial accomplish that?)

**Host:** What will happen to the politicians who have been pinpointed as customers of "sexort" service?

**Guest:** We will investigate them, depending on the documents.

(What documents? You mean, they signed something?)

**Host:** You have been criticized for the sexy things you say on TV, which some people say are indecent. Your comment?

**Guest:** There's such a words na freedom of expressions, right? (Wrong!)

**Host:** After the fire that gutted your shopping center, what will happen now?

**Guest:** We assure our customers, on the burned site, a new building will be arrested!

(Ay, arrested [architectural] development?)

**Host:** What was the effect on the audience of your unique musical number?

**Guest:** Modesty aside, it got the amazement and applaud of different people!

(Ay, amazement and applaud!)

**Host:** I heard you have an unusual pet. What is it?

**Guest:** It's a civet.

**Host:** What's a civet?

**Guest:** It's like a mongoose.

**Host:** What's a mongoose?

(Dear TV host, don't you know anything?)

**Host:** What is the problem regarding sanitation in your place?

**Guest:** Ang problema sa tubig namin dito—may amoyba.

(May amoy ba?—oh, amoebal!)

**Host:** Are you nervous, now that your movie is about to open?

**Guest:** Oh, yes, I'm so tenses!

## VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



(Ay, tenses talaga siya!)

**Host:** What should be done about the financial scandals in the military today?

**Guest:** Based on the principle of transparency, they should be brought out in the public outrightingly!

(Outrightingly? Bago 'yon, a.)

**Host:** What is the biggest problem facing us on the economic front, sa palagay niyo?

**Guest:** Sa aking palagay ang biggest financial problem natin ngayon ay ang hamon ng gulobilisasyon!

(Gulo na, bilis pa—problema talaga!)

**Host:** How should we solve our huge problem of poverty?

**Guest:** May kasabihan: Imbes na bigyan mo ang isda, turuan mong mangisda!

(Turuan mangisda ang isda? Ang gulo talaga!)

## Scriptwriting workshop

ABS-CBN is holding a TV drama scriptwriting workshop to be conducted by Ricky Lee. Submit a one-page story in any genre, and a comprehensive resumé before Nov. 8. E-mail Writers-Dev@abs-pinoycentral.com. Only 30 applicants will be chosen.

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MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## movietime



## I whattowatch I

## DOLL MASTER

MTRCB Rating: R13

**SM City Bacoor**  
Cinema 4

**SM City Cebu**  
Cinema 6

## HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

**SM City Cebu**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Dasmariñas**  
Cinema 4

**SM City Iloilo**  
Cinema 5

**SM City Pampanga**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Baguio**  
Cinema 2

**SM City Lucena**  
Cinema 2

## SHARK TALE

MTRCB Rating: R

**SM City Bacoor**  
Cinema 2

**SM City Davao**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Cebu**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Lucena**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Iloilo**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Marikina**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Cagayan**  
Cinema 1

## RESIDENT EVIL

MTRCB Rating: R13

**SM City Bacoor**  
Cinema 5

**SM City Cagayan**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Baguio**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Lucena**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Dasmariñas**  
Cinema 2

## SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF THE LOST

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

**SM City Bacoor**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Marikina**  
Cinema 2

**SM City Iloilo**  
Cinema 4

**SM City Davao**  
Cinema 2

**SM City Lucena**  
Cinema 4

## THE PUNISHER

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

**SM City Cagayan**  
Cinema 2

**SM City Iloilo**  
Cinema 3

**SM City Baguio**  
Cinema 1

**SM City Cebu**  
Cinema 5

**SM City Davao**  
Cinema 2

## SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF THE LOST

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

**SM City Bacoor**  
Cinema 8

**SM City Baguio**  
Cinema 4

**SM City Cebu**  
Cinema 8

**SM City Pampanga**  
Cinema 4

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. For complete movie schedule, visit [www.smcinemas.com](http://www.smcinemas.com)



CINDY Kurleto



GIRL Valencia

POI PHOTO



# ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino  
Assistant Editor Emma G. Velarde

## BERNIE FINEZA'S SON

# 'I love my stepdad very, very much'

By Nini Valera

"STARSTRUCK" finalist Kirby de Jesus would like his real father, former Hagibis member Bernie Fineza, to know that he already considers another man his father and that he loves this man "very, very much."

"I already have someone that I consider my father," said Kirby, 15, in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday. "There is nothing about my father (Bernie) that I can

be proud of."

Speaking in Filipino throughout the interview, Kirby repeated that his father Bernie had abandoned him, his brother and sister, and their mother Maite, when he was 5.

"I was still very young then," Kirby said. "I did not look for [Bernie] when I already had a mind of my own because there was already another person that I considered my father, even if I knew that he was not really my father."

Kirby said that after his father left,

they survived by living with one relative after another. His youngest brother became a child star in a soap that starred Eddie Gutierrez, and was also a commercial talent.

"That was how we survived," Kirby said.

### Who paid the bills

His mother met his stepfather on the set of the soap where his youngest brother was featured, Kirby said.

"My stepfather was the cameraman,"

said Kirby. "His name is Mike Vicencio. He and my mother have two children—one is 3, the other is 7 months old."

He said his stepfather has been supporting the family, especially after his brother stopped appearing in soaps and commercials because he had reached an awkward stage.

"My stepfather paid all our bills," said Kirby. "He really acted as if he were our real father. He lives with us. I don't think he has another family besides us."



**STARSTRUCK KID**  
Kirby de Jesus says he knows Bernie Fineza (right) is his father, "but not in the sense that I know him because we're together."



There are times, Kirby confessed, that he wished Mike Vicencio were his real father.

"I never asked my mother about my real father," Kirby admitted. "She did not want to be asked about him. I love my stepfather very, very much."

Last week, Bernie told INQUIRER Entertainment that he had tried to see Kirby and his other children but "they were kept away from me."

Now that his real father is asking Kirby to recognize him, the boy said he does not know what to do.

"I don't know what to say to that," he said. "My mom told me not to give any comment."

Kirby claimed that his mother had not forced him to join "StarStruck."

"If she forced me, why am I eager to attend (workshops, tapings)?" he said. "Even if no one accompanied me, it's OK."

### TV commercials

Kirby said he joined "StarStruck," a talent search on GMA 7, since he is fond of talent shows like this. He recalled that he was also a finalist in "That's My Boy," a talent search on the noontime show "Eat Bulaga," also on GMA 7.

"I had wanted to join 'StarStruck' since last year," Kirby said. "But I was only 14 then."

The show only accepts contestants who are at least 15 years old.

Kirby said he had done television commercials before he joined the amateur talent contest. The last commercial he did was a TV ad for a fabric conditioner, where he was in a supporting role, he said.

A high school student of Liceo Institute of Science and Technology in Bulacan, Kirby wants to be a "seasoned actor or a certified public accountant."

"But I really like to be an actor," he admitted. "If I am not lucky, enough, I would like to take up accounting. But I can't say what would happen in the future."

His reason for joining "StarStruck" and for wanting to be a star is so that he could have money to help his family.

"If I become famous, it's automatic that I would rise above my poverty," said Kirby, who lives in a small apartment in Bulacan.

"I want all my siblings to be able to study," he said. "I also want to be able to repay my stepfather's kindness."

### Not a singer

Kirby wants his father Bernie to know that they are now living a quiet life.



Asked if he were mad at his father for abandoning them, Kirby hesitated before saying, "That's a hard question to answer. I don't know."

He said he did not get his talent from his father. "I am not a singer (like him)," he said. "I am more into rap."

He is also not familiar with his father's songs in Hagibis, except for "Katawan," which was used as the theme song for "Pambansa Lalake."

"I know he is my dad," said Kirby, referring to Bernie, "but not in the sense that I know him because we are together."


He considers his mother his best friend, describing their relationship as "very, very close."


## Witness unspeakable horror.



RATS



RATS



OTHERS







RATS



THE EYE

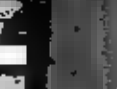
**Picture messages**

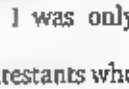















**Wallpapers**

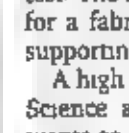


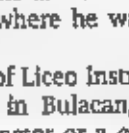













**Logos**

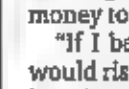















**October Frightfest**  
"Get Freaked Out! Horror Movies Resurrected!"

Catch the scariest ever horror flicks on Oct. 30 and 31, exclusively in these cinemas: SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Cebu.

Wanna watch the Red Carpet Premiere of Nang Nak on Oct. 30, 7:30PM at the Cinema 1 of SM Megamall? Just watch any of the October Frightfest horror movies for your invite. Plus enjoy a chilling treat with our Halloween Party at the cinema lobby.

**Also available to Text, Web and SMART Gold subscribers.**

Notes in order for you to identify which musical work the ringtones in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtones.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART hotline at 020-1111, text us at 090-1111 or post message sent in covers of the THE INK collection, send us at 090-1111.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino  
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

BEFORE BREAKUP: Paolo Contis and Nancy Castiglione



NOT ME: Luis Manzano says he did not cause breakup



CRUSADER Harrison Ford

## 'Indiana Jones' fights for his elk herd

JACKSON, Wyoming—Actor Harrison Ford is drawing the line—right at his property—against state efforts to thin the elk herd.

Elk living near Ford's ranch belong to the larger Fall Creek Herd, which numbers 5,100, exceeding the state's population objective of 4,400 animals.

### SHOW STOPPER

"The problem is that a lot of landowners don't allow permission to hunt," said Mark Goeke, spokesperson for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "That's why this particular herd segment has grown so much."

Ford has created a private elk refuge of sorts with elk summering on his property in South Park.

"(Ford) doesn't want any hunting to take place on his property," said John Kelly, who manages the ranch for the actor. "He told me that if I caught anyone to turn them in."

Kelly said he's placed signs warning would-be hunters along the border between Ford's property and that of a neighboring housing development.

State officials want to thin the herd to protect cottonwood habitat on the Snake River. They also are concerned about elk mingling with cattle because of the potential for transmitting diseases and because elk may damage stored hay.

## No third party caused our split, says Paolo Contis /A24

MPAA R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

OPENS TODAY

THE FILM THAT SHOCKED AMERICA  
#1 SUPER BLOCKBUSTER  
US\$40M gross in just 3 days

After "THE RING" comes the American remake of another super-scary Japanese movie produced by Sam Raimi (SPIDERMAN)

It never  
forgives.

It never  
forgets.

SARAH MICHELLE  
GELLAR

BILL  
PULLMAN

# THE GRUDGE

CASTING BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
COSTUME DESIGNER JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
HAIR BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
MAKEUP BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
PRODUCED BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
SCREENPLAY BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
DIRECTED BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD





## 'Manchurian Candidate' premiere

BASED on Richard Condon's classic bestselling novel, the mesmerizing story of mind control and abuse of political power was first filmed in 1962 starring Frank Sinatra in the role of Major Ben Marco. After more than four decades, Sinatra's daughter Tina Sinatra has produced the 2004 remake of "The Manchurian Candidate."

The premiere of "The Manchurian Candidate" on Friday, Oct. 29, at SM City Manila is

sponsored by the Philippine Council of Management for the benefit of the Collectors Association of the Bureau of Customs.

Directed by Academy Award winner Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs"), the contemporary version stars Oscar winners Denzel Washington ("Training Day," "Glory") as the tormented Major Marco, Meryl Streep ("Sophie's Choice," "Kramer vs. Kramer") as the powerful Sen. Eleanor Shaw, Jon



WASHINGTON (left) and Streep in "Manchurian"

## Magnavision brings 'Shrek 2,' holds parties

ONCE upon a time, an ogre embarked on the ultimate adventure, battling a dragon and climbing the tallest tower to rescue a princess. Now, Shrek is back for more, with Princess Fiona and Donkey in the kingdom of Far Far Away. They meet hesitant in-laws, the devilishly cunning Fairy Godmother, the self-absorbed Prince Charming and the ferocious yet adorable feline Puss in Boots.

Magnavision Home Video and Dreamworks Entertainment bring the biggest animated film of all time in "Shrek 2." Each purchase of the "Shrek 2" video gives the buyer a chance to win instant prizes, as well as to sing your heart out with the Magic Sing Premium Microphone at Odyssey and O-Music outlets nationwide.

Buyers can also win a Samsung Home Theater in the raffle promo at all Astrovision outlets. Magnavision holds a Halloween masquerade party at The Podium (The Lounge) on Oct. 29

to 31, and the Fantastic Halloween masquerade party on Oct. 30 to 31 at the Greenhills Theater Mall. The Halloween parties are also presented by Samsung and Act II, in cooperation with The Podium and Greenhills Theater Mall. They are also sponsored by



"SHREK 2"

Selecta Moo, Legend Cheeky Curis, Fruitella Lollipops, World of Fun, Kidz World, Pottery Exchange, Picture Company and Powerbooks, with media partners Mellow Touch 94.7, 103.5 K-Lite, 91.5 Energy FM, 93.9 I-FM and ClicktheCity.com.

# #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA

## THE GRUDGE's spectacular \$40M boxoffice

(first three days of release)



Sarah Michelle Gellar and Bruce Campbell in THE GRUDGE

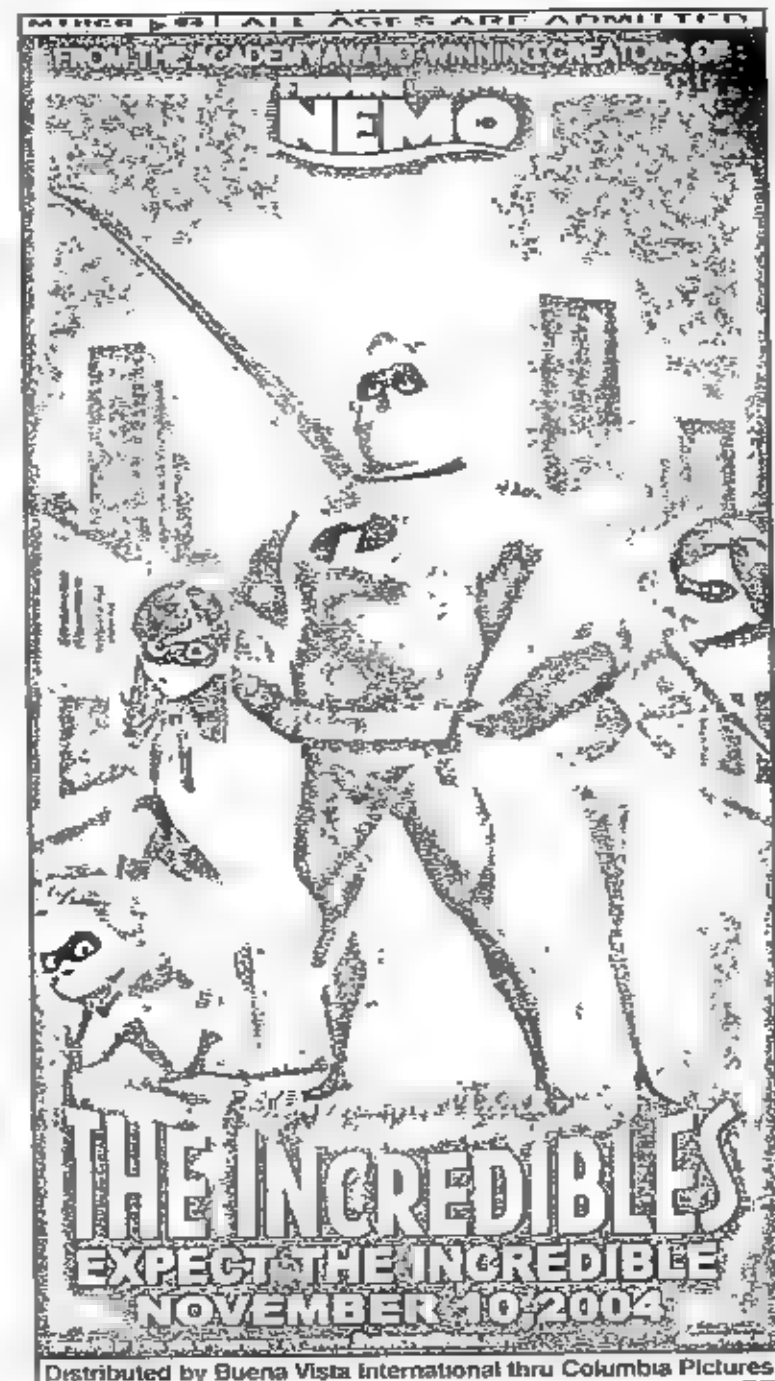
THIS WEEKEND Sarah Michelle Gellar led the North American box office with the opening of the new horror film **The Grudge** which sprinted past industry expectations to deliver a spectacular bow at number one.

Two years ago in October, DreamWorks opened **The Ring** (a remake of Hideo Nakata's *Ringu*) to just \$15 (compared to **The Grudge's** 40m) on its way to \$129.1M and has **The Ring 2** (to be directed by Nakata) slated for release in March 2005. **The Grudge** should continue to encourage Hollywood studios to buy up remake rights for hit Asian films from Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong which can be transformed into American blockbusters with western stars.

Scaring up a horrifyingly potent \$40M in its opening weekend, according to estimates, Sony's **The Grudge** took control

of the box office grossing more than the next four films combined as young moviegoers looking for a fright flick a week before Halloween lined up in huge numbers. The Sam Raimi (*Spiderman*) produced remake of the hit Japanese thriller **Ju-On: The Grudge** boasted the same director, Takashi Shimizu, and found the former vampire slayer playing an American student in Japan working in a house haunted by a curse. Playing extremely wide in 3,245 theaters, **The Grudge** averaged a bone chilling \$12,327 per venue.

Gellar brought plenty of starpower to her fifth career top spot debut which featured her in exactly the type of film that fans wanted to see her in. Sony picked a terrific launch date as late October is typically when moviegoers demand scary movies the most. [by GITESH PANDEY, WWW.BOXOFFICEGURU.COM]



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures.

GP ALL AGES ADMITTED NOW SHOWING

AMERICA'S #1 MOVIE DESTROY THE WORLD



3RD WEEK!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS ARE ADVISED OF SOME BATTLE SCENES THAT MAYBE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN BELOW 8 YRS OLD.

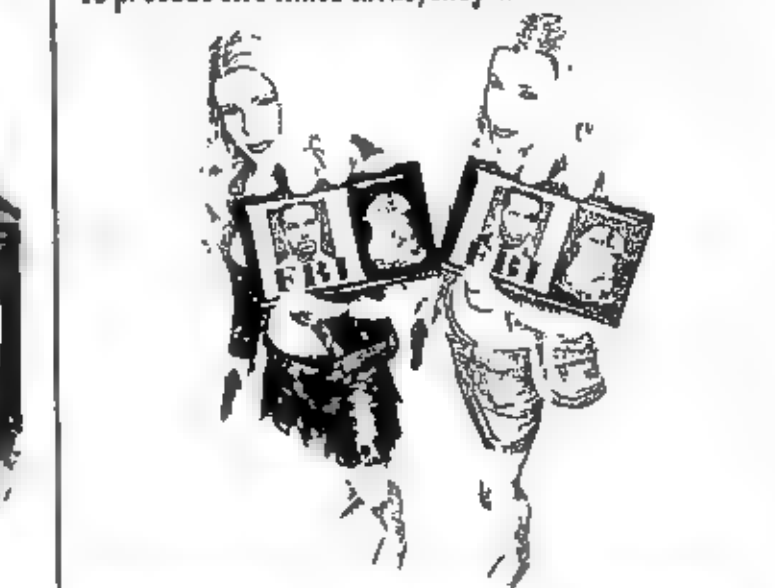


DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Laugh Out Loud as FBI Agents Go Undercover! 2nd GENDER BENDER COMEDY WEEK!

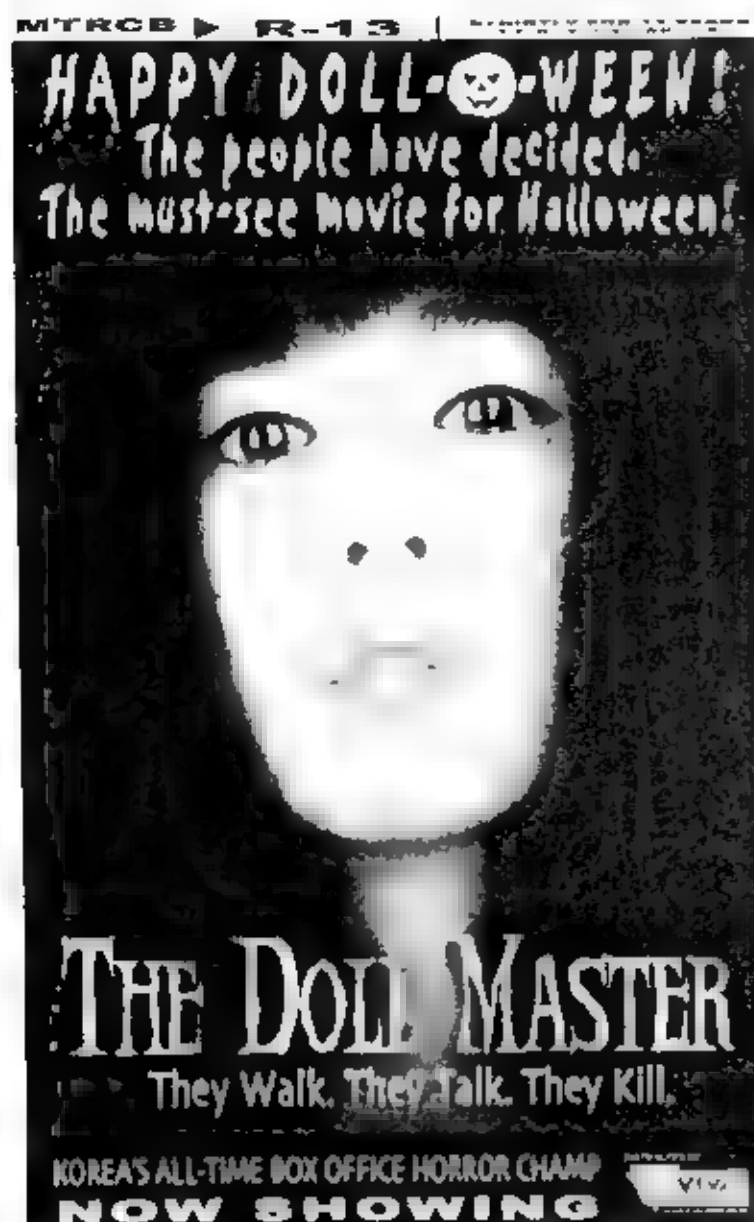
MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS ARE ADVISED OF SOME LANGUAGE AND DRUG USE THAT MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN BELOW 8 YRS OLD.

To protect two white divas, they have to become them.



WHITE CHICKS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SCARY MOVIE"

Distributed by 11 COLUMBIA PICTURES



KOREA'S ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE HORROR CHAMP NOW SHOWING



FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY PM, JUNIOR

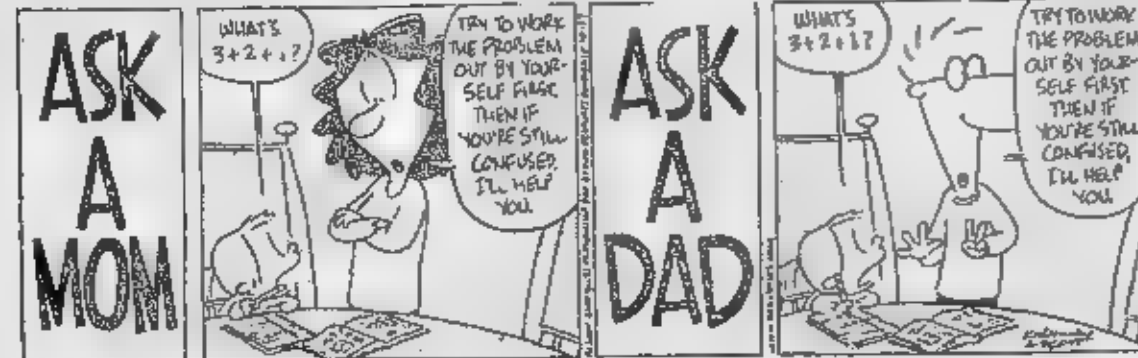


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY** You have a natural way with words. You're convincing, witty and intelligent. People want to hear what you have to say. You're also emotional and energetic. (Few know how sensitive you are.) You like to be appreciated, and you perform best when this happens. Increased solitude in the year ahead will help you learn something important.

Birthdate of: John Cleese, actor; Dylan Thomas, writer; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US president.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): Resist the urge to try to make somebody over today, especially a partner or someone close to you. You have to learn to live and let live.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): You can get gargantuan amounts of work accomplished today! You're ready to move mountains. You will, certainly, work until the job is done. (Admirable.)

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): You feel flirtatious and attractive. (And of course, you're youthful and playful because you always will be.) This means you can have a great time with others.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): You can make great improvements at home today. They might be related to renovations, plumbing, garbage, septic systems and recycling. Work hard right now.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an extremely successful day for you if you're in sales, writing, teaching, marketing or any job that emphasizes communications. You are super-persuasive today!

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today you have the motivation and energy to boost your earnings. You might think of entirely new ways of earning money today. Or you might think of a new job you can do.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll strive very hard to get what you want today. You're turned on and motivated! Furthermore, you see what is actually possible. (That is what really triggers you.)

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now is the time to talk to government officials or people in libraries, prisons and hospitals. You'll be like a hot knife cutting through butter. Everyone will step aside for you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for group activity. You can get a lot done through others. As the old say goes, "Many hands make light work." (Not a light bulb, o.k.)

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're very ambitious today. You want something, and you intend to get it. Since motivation is half the battle, you will get what you're after.

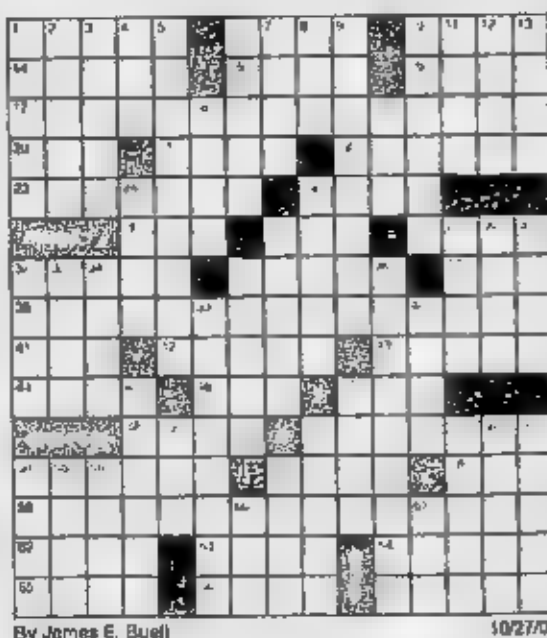
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's as if ordinary, everyday boundaries don't exist for you today. Plans to travel or expand your world through education unfold easily. Try to help others as well as yourself.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a chance to use the resources of someone else to make improvements in your own career. And possibly, others are just ready to help you.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 English track
- 6 Weaponry
- 10 Word of woe
- 14 "Crucio and the Men" co-star
- 15 Half a satyr
- 16 People
- 17 Bothers
- 20 Yale grad
- 21 Top-rated
- 22 Stick
- 23 Makeshift ballpark
- 25 Creole veggie
- 26 Long-standing
- 27 Anatomical pouch
- 28 California wine valley
- 32 Shorthand, in short
- 35 Sarandon of "Bull Durham"
- 37 Swap punches
- 38 Bothers
- 41 Water cooler?
- 42 Tournament rankings
- 43 Confession of faith
- 44 Used cars
- 46 Born in Brest
- 47 Christmas drink
- 48 Navel fuzz
- 50 Very arid
- 54 Greasy spoon
- 57 Box or bucket follower
- 58 "Norma..."
- 59 Bothers
- 62 Old Mercury coin
- 83 Leave off
- 84 Con-game decoy
- 85 Arabian gull
- 86 "Six Feet Under" character
- 87 Broadway awards



By James E. Bueli  
Edgewater, FL

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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### DOWN

- 1 Parcels of suburbia
- 2 NFL coaching great Don
- 3 Room on a liner
- 4 Alternatives
- 5 Complete bust
- 6 Go-between
- 7 "Lady Jane Grey" dramatist
- 8 Damage a tail
- 9 Petty vehicle
- 10 Crocheled blanket
- 11 Former Brat-Packer Rob
- 12 Banned apple spray
- 13 Tenlar type
- 18 Thug
- 19 Here-there link
- 24 Concluded
- 25 Drying kilns
- 27 Soft leather
- 29 French cleric
- 30 Krakow native
- 31 Chopped
- 32 Mix
- 33 Tex-Mex item
- 34 Just managed, with "out"
- 35 Piece of paper
- 36 Courtroom plea
- 38 "Break, Break, Break" poet
- 40 Strong inclination
- 45 Side-by-side ones?
- 47 Wordsmith Webster
- 49 High dudgeon
- 50 Actress Davis
- 51 Waste pipe
- 52 Resembling
- 53 Hotter
- 54 Icelandic epic
- 55 Perched
- 56 Ump's call
- 57 Bar in a grill
- 58 Thurman of "Tall Bar"
- 59 Sch-A Doctor

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



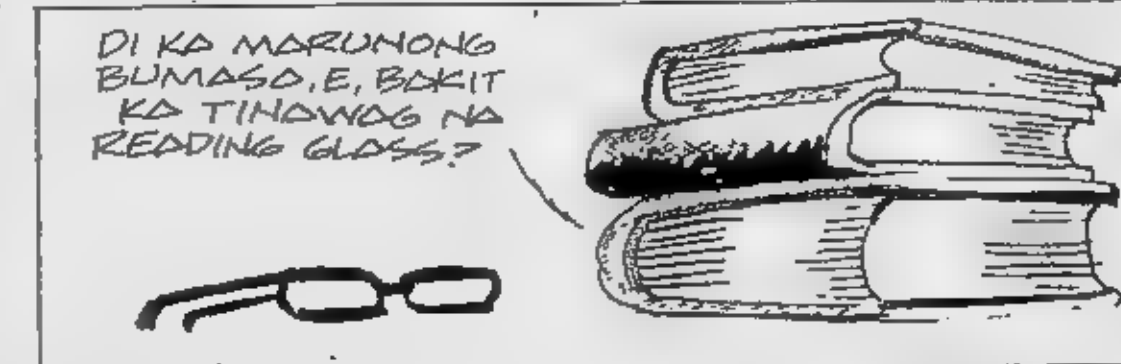
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM M. LAMBILING





# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'No third party caused our split'

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG actor Paolo Contis insists that his eight-month relationship with Pil-Canadian Nancy Castiglione did not end because of a third party.

"I find it offensive that some people make it look like Nancy cheated me," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "It's not true. Kawawa na-

man ang girlfriend ko

"Neither of us got involved with other people while Nancy and I were together," Paolo stressed.

According to talk in show biz circles, Nancy's former boyfriend, Luis Manzano, was the cause of the break-up. But in an interview on the show biz talk show "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN last week, Luis said he had indeed heard of



**WHO, ME? Luis denies involvement in the breakup**

the couple's break-up, but he denied that he was involved.

"I'm concerned, but I'm sure Luis is man enough to handle the issue," Paolo said of his alleged rival. "I've not talked to him about it yet."

A few days after the INQUIRER Entertainment interview, Paolo and Luis were spotted in a restaurant inside the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City. The source said, "Paolo did not come together, and sat on each other," the source said.

Paolo and Nancy became sweethearts last Feb. 17. Three months later, Paolo, who used to be an ABS-CBN talent, decided to transfer to



NO THIRD/A2-2 UN-COUPLE, Paolo and Nancy before cooling off

**HOME CABLE CAVITE** **Island Cove** **Star Project Mart**

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**October Band Camp**

**Cavite's Grapd EB**

**Featuring:**

**6 Cycle Mind & Mitchie Nadal**

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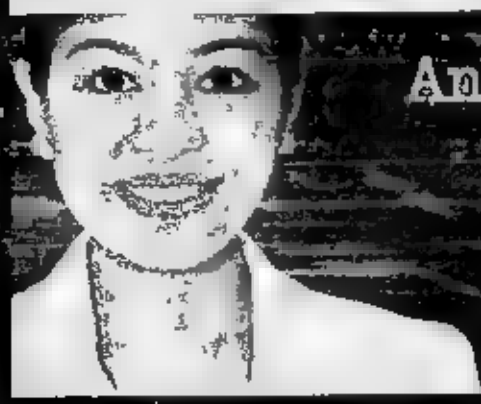
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GMA	Jayde (2:45 PM)	Jayde (3:15 PM)	Twin Sisters: 100% Selfies												
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## Gov't drops gross income tax proposal

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has modified the unpopular proposal of a gross income system of taxation and is now pushing for a uniform 28-percent income tax rate both on corporate taxpayers and self-employed individuals, hoping it would be more acceptable to the private sector and the legislature.

In a speech during the 5th Business Outlook Conference yesterday, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatoong said the DOF, together with other members of the government's economic team, would be lobbying for the so-called "simplified net income tax system," or SNITS, in exchange for the earlier proposal of a gross income tax.

Currently, corporate taxpayers are slapped a uniform 32-percent income tax rate, while self-employed individuals are imposed a graduated income tax rate, with 32 percent as the maximum, de-

pending on the amount of their income.

Under the new DOF proposal, corporate taxpayers will be imposed a lower income tax rate. As a safeguard, however, the government will be the one to specify the allowable deductions from a company's gross income, and the resulting amount is where the 28-percent income tax shall be based.

For self-employed individuals, the DOF is proposing to cap the allowable deductions at 40 percent of one's gross income. This means that the deductions al-

lowed of a self-employed individual should not exceed 40 percent of his or her gross income. The resulting amount will be the basis of computing the 28-percent income tax.

"This proposal will enhance the revenue potential of the income tax," Amatoong said.

The DOF has come up with the new proposal on revolutionizing the current income tax system amid negative comments on the earlier proposal of shifting to a gross income tax system, which was endorsed by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

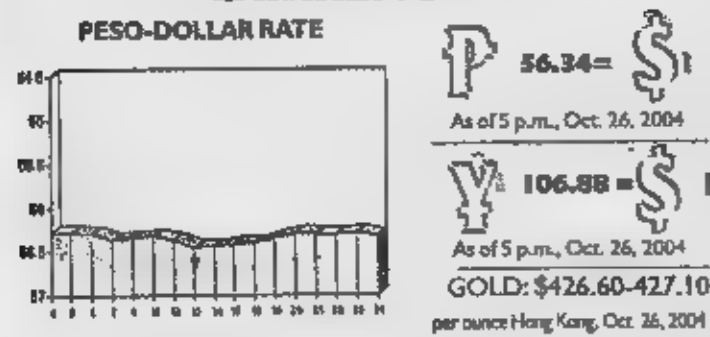
At the same time, Amatoong said the DOF was also pushing for a 7-percent franchise tax on telecommunication companies, and television and radio broadcasting companies. Should the proposal be adopted, the franchise tax will replace the value-added tax currently imposed on

these companies.

The DOF said the government stood to collect higher revenue with the franchise tax than with VAT, which provides an input-output tax mechanism. The input-output tax mechanism of the VAT means that a taxpayer is allowed to deduct the VAT it paid for the purchase of goods or services from the amount of its VAT liabilities.

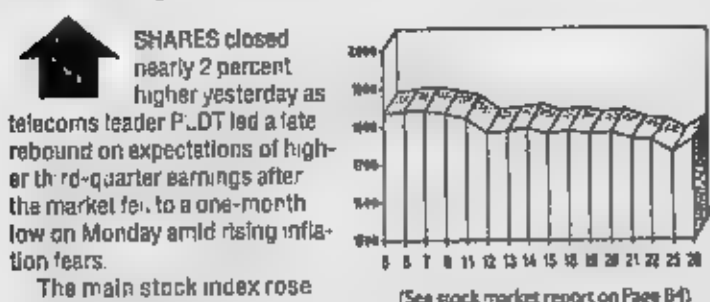
The franchise tax and the SNITS are part of the eight revenue-enhancement measures proposed by the Arroyo administration. The other measures include the increase in the VAT rate, increase in the excise tax on petroleum products, rationalization of fiscal incentives, a lateral attrition program, indexation of sin taxes to inflation, and a tax amnesty. The measures are expected to rake in an additional P80 billion in annual revenue.

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



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## Tighter money policy seen early next year

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to tighten monetary policy in the first half of 2005.

Such a move is seen to jack up the average interest rate, based on the benchmark 91-day treasury bill, to 8.3 percent.

This was based on an economic outlook briefing yesterday by Bank of the Philippine Islands, which also projected a lower economic growth and higher inflation for next year.

"We're looking at a high interest rate environment," said BPI asset manager Herbert Arabejo.

He said BPI was forecasting the bellwether treasury bill rate to average higher next year from a projected average of 7.3 percent this year.

"This is due to BSP's intervention in the first semester," Arabejo said. An intervention can be in the form of higher overnight policy rates or an increase in the reserve requirement on banks.

During its latest monetary policy setting, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board voted to maintain key policy rates unchanged at the same levels since July last year as threats to in-



### CEBU-MACTAN INTERCONNECTION

President Macapagal-Arroyo prepares to lay down the time capsule marking the site of the P2-billion interconnection project of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) that will link the industrial zones of Mactan Island with the power generation facilities of Cebu. The project is expected to boost the export manufacturing sector of the Central Visayas region. Assisting the President are, from left, Jules Alcantara, Transco vice president for Visayas-Mindanao, and Dr. Alan Ortiz, Transco president.

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# Spain eyes RP as gateway to presence in Asia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SPANISH companies, with help from their government, yesterday opened

a three-day trade show at the Hotel Intercontinental as Spain eyed the Philippines as a gateway to establishing a greater presence in Asia.

Dubbed España Exporta 2004, the exhibit features some 25 wine and gourmet, personal care, and infrastructure engineering com-

panies as well as small- and medium-scale enterprises. Jose Miguel Cortes, an economic and commercial counselor at the

Embassy of Spain here in Manila, said during the opening rites held yesterday the trade mission was looking at potential business partnerships with local firms especially on road and highway projects.

"We have one firm that is among those in preliminary talks with the proponents of the South Luzon Expressway [upgrade and extension]," Cortes said.

The Department of Trade and Industry is pushing for the repair of the Alabang viaduct and the 8-kilometer link between the South Luzon Expressway and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road. The viaduct repair would cost about P2.8 billion while the Slex-Star connection would cost at least P1.8 billion.

Cortes said the firm, which he declined to name, wanted to engage in the engineering and design and construction of the pro-

ject as well as a possible outlay for a build-operate-transfer equity.

"We are investigating some BOT opportunities in road, water and waste management," Cortes added. "We have started or are set to start serious discussions with the national and provincial administrations."

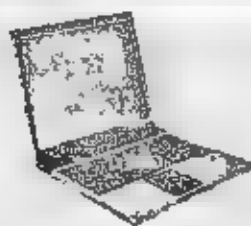
He said Spanish investors control 45 percent of all BOT contracts worldwide but none so far in the Philippines.

Cortes said total trade between Spain and the Philippines reached an all time high in 2003.

According to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, whose speech was read by Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Spain was the country's 29th trading partner accounting for 0.29 percent or \$210 million of total \$74-billion Philippine trade with the world.

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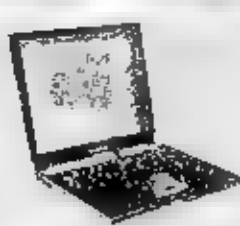
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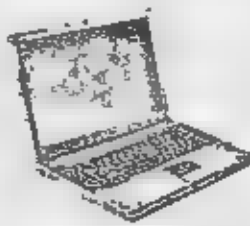
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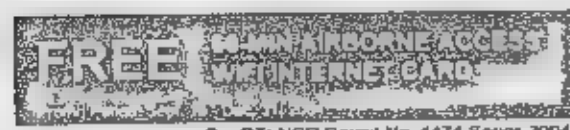
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## Local firm invests P142M in outsourcing venture

AN ALL-FILIPINO firm is investing P142 million to put up an outsourcing application development project that would cater to clients in North America, Japan and Europe, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Pointwest Technologies Corp. will offer application development services through combinations of onsite, offsite and off shore project management and development activities.

The firm's portfolio covers software development and code enhancements. Pointwest services are designed to rapidly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its clients' operations.

The company's project started commercial operations earlier this month as the Citibank Corporate Center and would employ 478 information technology professionals.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the local IT industry has grown dramatically over the past 30 years.

"From \$10 million in export revenue in 1989, the industry now exports approximately \$1 billion in IT services and has generated some 290,000 skilled professionals," Hernandez said.

He added that the country has five operational cyberparks and 1,739 registered IT firms all over the country.

In a related development, the DTI said vital infrastructure was being laid down in Cagayan de Oro in the city's bid to become the next IT hub in Mindanao.

According to the Regional Development Council 10, Cagayan de Oro was setting in place business parks that would accommodate IT firms such as the Pueblo de Oro Business Park.

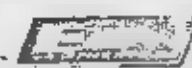
RCD 10 said the Philippine Economic Zone Authority had in principle approved Pueblo de Oro as an IT zone. The necessary documents needed are completed and Pueblo is awaiting proclamation from Malacañang. Ronnel W. Domingo



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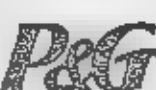
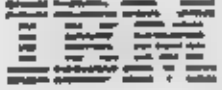
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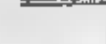
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## Angara loses farm appeal

SEN EDGARDO Angara has no choice but to slug it out in the Nasugbu Regional Trial Court over the ownership issue of his 6.75-hectare farm in Hacienda Baley-tigue, which is also claimed by Fedman Development Corp. of the Bernascon family.

The Supreme Court has just rejected a petition for a certiorari review filed by Angara, who had wanted the Nasugbu RTC to render a judgment based on a commissioners' survey report on the questioned area as well as to implead adjoining property owners.

"The Rules of Court clearly provides that the trial court is not bound by the finding of the commissioners or precluded from disregarding the same," ponente Justice Maria Alicia Austria-Martinez said.

"It may adopt, modify, reject the report or recommit it with instructions, or require parties to present further evidence," she said.

Two other justices, Leonardo Quinsumbing and Romeo Callejo, concurred, upholding a previous Court of Appeals' decision that had

denied Angara's certiorari motion.

The suit stemmed from a 1996 action filed by Fedman for quieting of title, claiming Angara had fenced off the wrong property for his weekend farm.

The Batangas court set aside the commissioners' report since the survey had had been conducted individually by three court-approved geodetic engineers, instead of the survey having been jointly conducted by the three.

The court case was nearly thrown out during the Enr years, after Fedman failed to prosecute and move the case past the pre-trial stage.

### Philrealty plots turnaround

PHILREALTY, which has daily been bumping the 50-percent rise ceiling since the stock began trading again last week, plans to build a Mega-world-style condominium in its Fort property instead of its original plan with bigger, Alexandra-sized units.

Now being used as a parking lot in front of the UCC coffee shop, the property offers a better promotional point to the Manila Golf fairway

### COCKTALES

**Victor C. Agustin**

than the Pacific Plaza Towers.

According to the grapevine, Philrealty principal Gerardo Lanuza has successfully rounded up a group of investors, including fellow iBank director Enrique Razon Jr., to provide fresh funding for the Fort project.

The projected profits from the Fort project will then be used by

Philrealty to finish its Andrea condo complex in what used to be the Pepsi compound in Quezon City's Balente Drive.

### No Toda toady

EDSA II lawyer Mario Luza Bautista sought to distance himself from the P80-million tax evasion setback handed by the Supreme Court on the estate of former PAL owner Benigno Toda.

Bautista said that he was appointed co-administrator of the Toda estate in July 1994, after the businessman died in January 1994, and that he resigned the po-

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6 months	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%
12 months	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%	3.500%

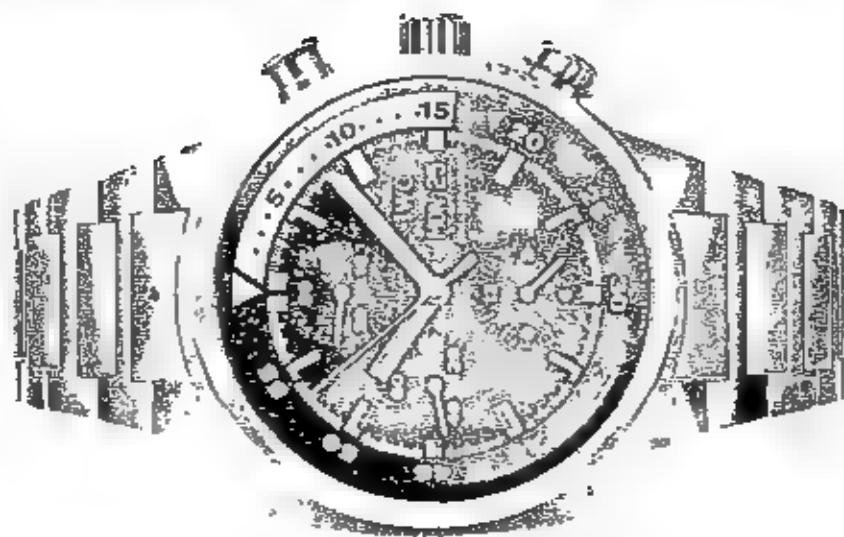
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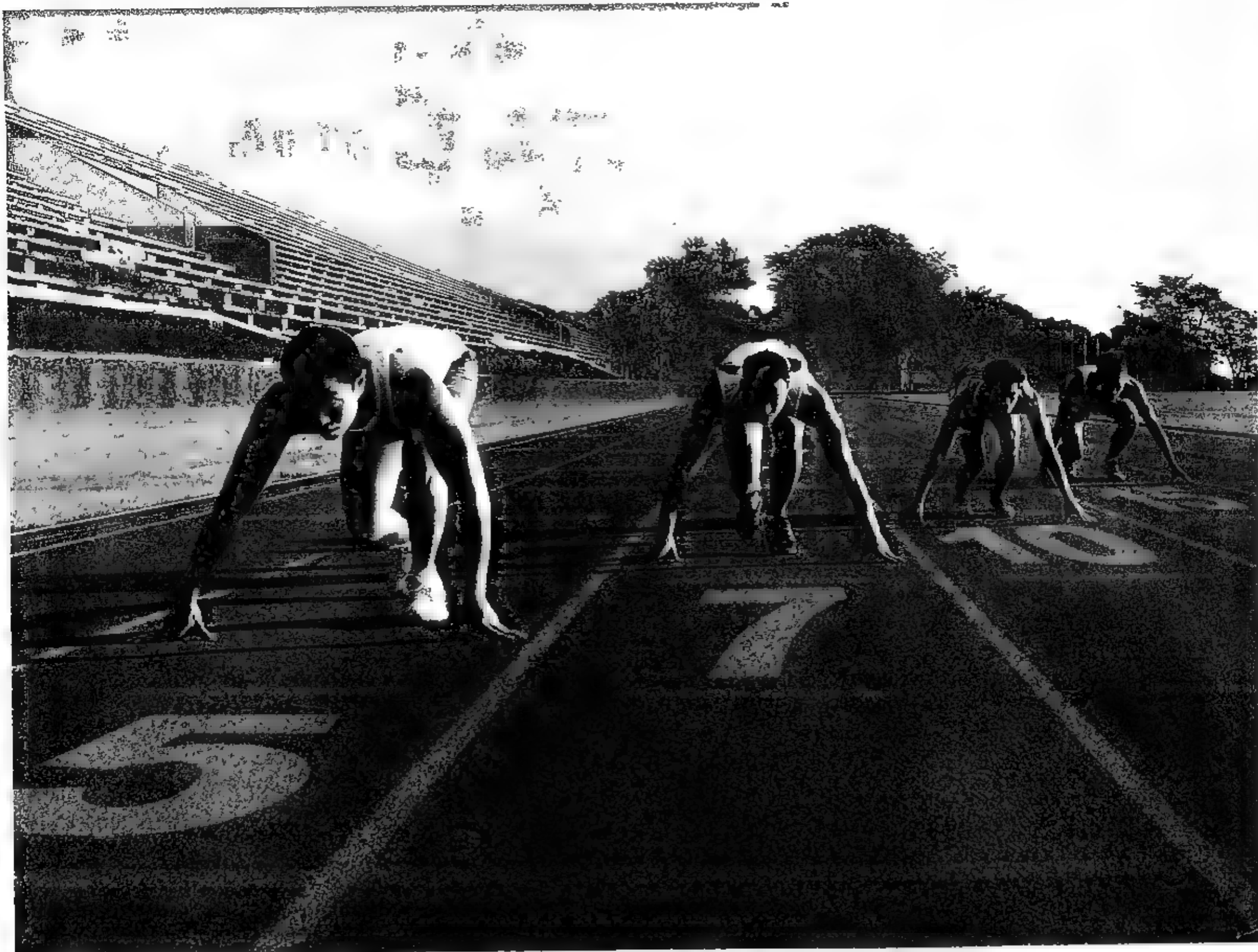
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China Banking Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	65,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	600,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	301,800
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	500
Philippine National Bank	22.25	22.25	21.75	21.75	34,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	408,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	4,000
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First Metro Invest. Corp.	178	178	178	178	190
Manulife Financial Corp.	2405	2410	2405	2410	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1653	1653	1653	1653	3,130
<b>COMMERCIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>					
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	20.75	20.75	25,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.36	1.22	1.3	48,351,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	885	1005	865	1000	40,950
People Inc.	1.55	1.58	1.55	1.58	145,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	2,000,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,850,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1345	1370	1345	1360	50,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	92,950
Ivanhoe Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	430,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	63,900,000
<b>POWER &amp; ENERGY</b>					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	28,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	194,100
Palayan Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	5,520,000
Salcedo Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	23,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>					
Abolito Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	3,000
Int'l Container Term. Sv.	5	5	4.95	5	895,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS</b>					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.22	2.28	5,532,000
<b>FOOD, BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	53,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	404,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	70.5	70.5	70	70.5	146,000
San Miguel Corp. B	10	10	10	10	821,300
Universal Robina Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	44,000
Vitacorn Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,470,000
<b>HOLDING FIRMS</b>					
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	7,984,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	2,373
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	582
APC Group Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100
Bancorah Corp. Indus. Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	57
Benguet Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	5,810
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	160
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	400
DMC Holdings Inc.	2.9	3.25	2.9	3.25	17,110
Ever-Gotoco Resources	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	16,800
Phil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70
Phil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.15	4.6	4.15	4.6	262

First Phil Holdings Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	438
Global Equities Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,500
IG Summit Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	145
Macro Asia Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	263
Metroworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.24	11
Metrol Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.41	0.39	0.41	1,950
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	55,770
Solo Group Inc.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	100
Waterkraft Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	250
<b>MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION &amp; TRADING</b>					
Corro-Cast Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	5
Musica Samscondactors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	206,140
<b>HOTEL, RECREATION &amp; OTHER SERVICES</b>					
Belle Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,880
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.79	0.79	150
Upsilon & Resort's Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	270
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150
<b>BONDS</b>					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. Corp.	20.75	21	20.75	21	182,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series B	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
<b>OTHERS</b>					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	10,000
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	4,142,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	50,300
C.P. Homes Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,840,000
Star Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,200
EG Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,200
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	14,060,000
Pinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	5,571,000
Pinvest Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,160,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	50,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
SM Development Corp.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	340,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	4,150,000
<b>MINING</b>					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	715,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. C	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. D	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. E	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. F	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. G	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. H	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. I	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. J	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. K	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. L	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. M	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. N	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. O	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. P	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. Q	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. R	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. S	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. T	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. U	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. V	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. W	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. X	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. Y	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. Z	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AA	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AB	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AC	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AD	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AE	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AF	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AG	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AH	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AI	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AJ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AK	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AL	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AM	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AN	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AO	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AP	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AQ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AR	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AS	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AT	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AU	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AV	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AW	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AX	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AY	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. AZ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BA	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BB	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BC	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BD	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BE	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BF	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BG	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BH	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BI	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BJ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BK	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BL	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BM	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BN	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BO	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BP	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BQ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BR	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BS	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BT	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BU	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BV	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BW	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BX	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BY	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. BZ	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CA	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CB	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CC	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CD	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CE	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CF	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. CG	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	180,000



## SBC sells P100M worth of idle assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO commercial banks are making significant progress in disposing their idle assets through auctions.

Publicly-listed Security Bank Corp. sold 40 foreclosed assets worth more than P100 million in two auctions this year. SBC appointed CB Richard Ellis as auction manager.

Security Bank had some P3.015 billion worth of idle assets as of June.

CB Richard Ellis Philippines director Jojo Salas also said Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) would hold a public auction for 150 assets on Thursday at the Philippine AXA Tower in Makati.

Metrobank has a total of P2.32 billion in idle properties as of June representing 8 percent of its total assets.

Supporting the banking industry's efforts to clean up their books, the Securities and Exchange (SEC) recently said it had approved 36 applications from companies that proposed to help banks and other financial entities dispose of their idle assets consisting of bad loans and foreclosed properties.

Among the SPVs registered with the SEC, Unimark Investments Corp. led by Filipino-Chinese businessman Robin Sy had the biggest capital at P2 billion against the minimum authorized capital of P500 million required for such companies.

# RP seen to remain under IMF post-program monitoring

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund, which is sending a review mission to Manila next month, said it wanted to keep the Philippines under its post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement in view of the country's fiscal woes.

At the sidelines of the 5th Annual Philippine Business Outlook conference yesterday, IMF country representative Vikram Haksar told reporters that a delegation from Washington would hold another round of consultations with Philippine economic managers on Nov. 4 to 17.

He said the government could choose to keep its PPM arrangement "for as long as the Philippines has outstanding borrowings from the IMF."

The PPM can be terminated when the outstanding loan with the IMF falls below a certain threshold or quota.

In the case of the Philippines, however, he said it was "helpful to have the PPM."

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier declared that the government was in a fiscal crisis and urged Congress to pass key revenue-raising measures.

"I see no downside in keeping the PPM," Haksar stressed.

The PPM provides for frequent consultations between the Fund and its members whose arrangements have expired but who continue to have outstanding credit with the IMF. Particular focus is placed on policies that have a bearing on external viability.

The Philippines holds semi-annual PPM discussions with the IMF each year. During the last PPM discussions in July, the IMF's biggest concerns were the country's huge public sector deficits, the debt-ridden power sector and slow pace of bad asset disposal in the banking industry.

The country "graduated" from the IMF in 2001 but remains un-

der its supervision. The government said a standby program with the IMF would be considered only as a last-ditch funding option.

Although the country was now a net depositor to the IMF instead of a net creditor, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura believes the PPM is crucial in confirming the soundness of the government's economic program.

As of June 30, 2004, the Philippines has an outstanding debt with the IMF worth 629 special drawing rights (SDR) or 71.5 percent of its 100 percent quota.

Each SDR, the unit used by the IMF, is worth about \$1.5.

## MRT-7 group buys P1-B land in Bulacan

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNIVERSAL LRT Corp., the proponent of Metro Rail Transit 7 project, yesterday signed an agreement with The Manila Banking Corp. for the purchase of the latter's 193-hectare property in Bulacan for almost P1 billion.

Eli Levin, chief executive officer of Universal LRT said the consortium would develop the property and transform it into a \$500-million real estate venture that would complement the \$1.2-billion railway project.

The MRT-7 consortium plans to turn over 20 hectares of the property to the national government in phases to offset the \$900-million, 15-year sovereign exposure to the integrated transport project.

Levin said the group was negotiating to buy 200 hectares more and out of that, 35 hectares could be given to the government.

The Bulacan property was owned by the family of Gregory Araneta but was foreclosed by Manila Bank. The bank surrendered the property to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as payment for its loans.

Levin said Manila Bank repurchased the property from the central bank with the blessing of the Monetary Board.

Penta Capital signed the purchase agreement with Manila Bank in behalf of the consortium.

The MRT-7 consortium will pay the bank for the land over a five years with an annual interest of 6.5 percent.

"The purchase of the land shows the proponent's intent to make good its commitment to the government to create a buffer for its exposure and to provide an upside for the entire project," said Levin.

## New rate-setting scheme for power distributors eyed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission is finalizing the guidelines that will determine a power distributor's rate based on its performance.

The performance-based rate-setting (PBR) method uses incentives to motivate power distributors to reduce their costs and improve their operations.

This is expected to result in better electricity rates, a more efficient delivery of service to customers and the optimal use of a firm's assets.

The ERC said in a statement yesterday that this rate-setting scheme was a "win-win proposition for both investors and consumers" as the risks of doing business were also shared by the investors and consumers.

The other areas that have adopted the PBR scheme included Victoria in Australia, Ontario in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The PBR scheme is embedded in the distribution wheeling rates guidelines (DWRG).

These guidelines will set the criteria in determining the maximum distribution wheeling rates that utilities will be allowed to charge.

"ERC initiated the formulation of a new rate-setting methodology in pursuit of an internationally accepted rate-setting scheme that will be more responsive in ensuring reasonable and non-discriminatory electricity rates and promote regulatory stability," ERC Commissioner Alejandro Barin said.

He said the regulatory body was encouraged by the fact that the power distributors seemed interested in shifting to the PBR scheme.

The ERC recently concluded the second and final public consultation for the draft DWRG. Distribution utilities Manila Electric Co., Davao Light and Power Co., Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc., Dagupan Electric Corp., Visayan Electric Co. Inc. and Cabanatuan Electric Corp. were present during the meeting.

The public consultation gave the stakeholders a chance to air their views for incorporation in the final guidelines. Most of the comments made during the final consultation focused on the financial and technical aspects of the guidelines.

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## RP'S 'DARKEST REGION'

**ARMM: Bottomless pit of NEA finances**

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Third of a series)

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) remains a beaten patch of land lagging behind in the nation's rural electrification program.

Nearly 70 percent of the households and establishments in ARMM are still without power. Economic stagnation stalks the region.

In June, only 117,084 (33 percent) of 357,200 homes and other potential connections in the region had been energized, according to a National Electrification Administration report.

The NEA, an attached agency of the Department of Energy, expects to achieve 90 percent nationwide household electrification by 2017.

Power, courtesy of state-subsidized electric cooperatives, had reached only 65 percent of ARMM's 2,609 barangay units. Those already energized include so-called strongholds of Muslim separatist groups.

An oldtimer at the NEA referred to the ARMM as the country's "darkest region."

ARMM has the most number of "black-out areas"—villages where many local folk make do with homemade kerosene lamps, if not battery-operated ones to light up their nights.

Those places seemed frozen in time, said the NEA staffer, who has traveled several times to Mindanao.

ARMM is also the "region with the lowest level of human development in the country," said the congressional and planning office of the House of Representatives.

In a 2003 report, the House body referred to the ARMM as "a gloomy picture of a region mired in high levels of poverty, low level of productivity and poor delivery of basic services."

The ARMM (population 2.8 million in a census taken in 2000) groups the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi—destinations which, for obvious reasons, are not exactly at the top of everyone's travel list.

The region is rich in culture, but that

did not prevent it from being battered by decades of armed conflicts and, in recent years, by sporadic eruptions of terrorist activities.

The same NEA report also revealed that in Southern Mindanao (North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani), only 54 percent of households has electricity.

In the same league are Central Mindanao (59 percent), Caraga (62 percent), Western Visayas (64 percent), Western Mindanao (65 percent), Eastern Visayas (66 percent), Central Visayas (68 percent), Mimaropa or Region 4-B (69 percent), and Bicol (71 percent).

Central Luzon, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home region, tops the NEA list with a high energization rate of 90 percent, that is 888,600 households in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales and Aurora.

The 35-year-old program looks infinitely better in the following regions: Ilocos, 87 percent; Calabarzon, 86 percent; Cagayan Valley and Northern Mindanao, 82 percent; Cordillera Administrative Region, 81 percent; and Caraga, 79 percent.

When interviewed, NEA head Edith Bueno said the agency was not to blame for ARMM's powerless state.

"We're doing our part in the government's bigger program of reducing poverty in the region," she said, stressing that the NEA had not given up on the region.

The rural electrification program has become instrumental in improving the socioeconomic lives of Filipinos nationwide, she said.

But "history" has not always been on the NEA's side, according to Bueno.

"It's the peace and order problem," she pointed out. "Many years of armed conflicts have adversely affected our program in that region."

Take Lanao del Sur, for example. The NEA boss recalled how, during the 1980s, the program went full blast in the area.

"But what did some people there do?" Bueno asked. "They vented their rage on the power lines, bombing and destroying them. That prompted government to

temporarily stop energizing the area. No investments were made. So it became powerless for at least 16 years. It was only in 2002 that we started putting up the power lines again."

The province's electric cooperative was also part of the problem, according to NEA documents furnished the INQUIRER.

In 2001, the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative or Lasureco was the country's worst performing electric cooperative. It placed 119th and last in the NEA scheme, which categorizes ECs according to their performance ratings—with A-plus being the highest. Those in categories C, D and E are considered financially distressed.

That year, Lasureco got an E-minus rating. In 2002, it moved two notches higher to 117th place, but it still received the same rating, like its counterparts in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Cagayan de Sulu.

In June, Lasureco had energized only 26 percent of over 114,000 homes in its coverage area despite state subsidies of more than P142.6 million, the biggest slice in the P441.2-million aid pie.

Lasureco's poor performance has prompted the NEA to deputize Napocor to run the cooperative.

Lasureco is not alone in its troubles. The other ARMM ECs also have yet to emerge from the wilderness.

Their electrification efforts were anything but impressive: Siasi, 21 percent of 10,100 homes; Sulu, 22 percent of 83,000; Cagayan de Sulu, 25 percent of 3,000; Basilan, 35 percent of 64,800; Tawi-Tawi, 43 percent of 19,200; and Maguindanao, 56 percent of 62,700.

Lasureco has obtained more than P145 million in loans, P48.1 million of which were condoned by the state under Republic Act No. 9136, or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001."

According to Bueno, Lasureco's power bills averaged P14-16 million a month.

"But only P2 million was being paid to Napocor," she said.

Lasureco had also posted the lowest collection efficiency rate among all ECs.

Bueno lamented that "many costumers simply refuse to pay their electric bills."

"In Lanao del Sur, (the residents



AN ELDERLY woman draws water from a pump in the hinterlands of North Cotabato. According to the National Electrification Administration, electricity reaches a little more than half of all the households in North Cotabato.

POFILE

there) argued that Lanao lake, the region's main power source, came from Allah," she said. "So why should they pay? If we cut off supply to non-paying customers, they'll say, *inaapi kami* (we're being persecuted). But they (the customers) should share the burden just like the others."

The cooperative in Lanao del Sur once owed Napocor some P1.5 billion—the biggest among the cooperatives.

"Kung inapiyun, dapat noon pa pinutulan ng Napocor (The cooperative had not been persecuted. Napocor would have cut off its supply to the cooperative long ago)."

Bueno called the ARMM the "bottomless pit" of NEA finances. (To be continued.)

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- >>> Delivering Mobile Content and Messaging
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- >>> Mobile Payment: Creating a Win-Win Business Model for Telcos, Banks and Consumers/Merchants/Retailers
- >>> Driving Mass Adoption: How to Get Consumers to Access and Pay for Digital and Physical Services on Mobile Devices
- >>> The Role of Banks in the Mobile Payment Arena — How Is It Evolving in the Philippines?
- >>> Preparing for Convergence of Mobile and Internet Technology
- >>> Mobile Marketing: It's Here in the Philippines, It's Real!
- >>> SMS and MMS As Marketing Channels
- >>> Pioneering Mobile Services to Philippine Mass Audience on TV and Beyond

## Event Highlights

- >>> 2-day E-Commerce Conference
- >>> 2-day Exhibition on E-Commerce/ IT Products, Services, Solutions
- >>> PICS and Exhibitors Networking Night on November 19, 2004
- >>> Corporate Presentations, Product Launching, Free Internet Surfing

## Exhibit Profile

Computer hardware, software and peripherals, E-Commerce Solution Providers, Internet and Web development services/solutions, Telecommunications, Mobile and Wireless communication products, Management and IT consulting, Training Institutes and Education Centers, E-Learning Centers, Financial Institutions, Internet Banking, Software Development Companies, Internet Security Products, Internet Service Providers, IT Support Centers, Call Centers and CRM, Online Media, and E-Government services.

## Who Should Attend

E-Commerce Professionals, SMEs, Entrepreneurs, Businessmen, Chief Information Officers, Wireless Content Entrepreneurs/Providers, Financial and Internet Bankers, IT/MS Managers, IT Professionals, IT Project Managers, Cyber Lawyers, Policy Makers, Legislators, Educators, Web Developers, Law Enforcement Personnel, Venture Capital Firms, Managing Directors and CEOs, CRM Managers, Direct Marketing Managers, Database Managers, IT Managers, Brand and Product Managers, Customer Care Managers, Call Center and Telemarketing Executives, Marketing Directors and Managers, DM and CRM Agency Owners, Media Managers, Copywriters, Account Executives, Directors, Creative Directors, General Managers/Owners, and those responsible for the development and implementation of business strategies geared towards E-Commerce.

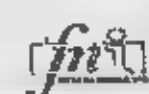
## Organizer

Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS)  
Visit Website: <http://www.pics.org.ph>



## Event Manager

Fiera de Manila, Inc.  
Email: [fiera@info.com.ph](mailto:fiera@info.com.ph)  
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## Oil prices dip to \$54/barrel as winter fears persist

SINGAPORE—Oil prices slipped toward \$54 a barrel on Tuesday, breathing easier after a Norwegian strike threat receded. But the markets are still anxious over the thin state of global pre-winter heating oil supplies.

US light crude for December was trading 48 cents lower at \$54.06 a barrel in early European dealing. Brent crude in London traded down 38 cents at \$50.40 a barrel.

Prices had surged to a new record \$55.67 on Monday after a Norwegian shipowners' group threatened to shut down the country's output to resolve a deadlocked strike, but those gains unraveled after the government stepped in to end the dispute.

Norway produces nearly 3 million oil barrels per day (bpd) and ranks as the third-biggest exporter behind Saudi Arabia and Russia.

"The market is taking a breather here, but the medium- and longer-term has not changed," said Tony Nunan at Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo. "The fact is, we're heading into the winter with relatively low middle-distillate stocks in the US, and Opec is maxed out. I think we'll see \$60 before we see \$45."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has been pumping at nearly full throttle since the summer to meet the biggest annual leap in demand for a generation.

But according to Opec president Piumomo Yusgiantoro, there is no supply shortage to worry about as global crude oil overproduction is now running at some 2.1 to 2.5 million barrels per day.

Yusgiantoro yesterday said that he had already called on Opec members to release all their supply into the market "to give a positive signal... that we are not (facing) any shortage."

He said that there was no problem with world crude stocks.

Yusgiantoro in Jakarta said current record prices around 55 dollars reflected a political risk premium of some 10-15 dollars.

"It is a geopolitical matter that is unrelated to the world oil market," he said, apparently referring to tensions in the Middle East.

But analysts believe that the world has little spare supply of oil to cushion the effects of unexpected outages such as last month's Hurricane Ivan in the US Gulf of Mexico.

The outage has impeded the seasonal stockbuild of winter fuels, with US heating oil inventories lingering 12 percent below last year's level.

US officials have said solid growth might be slightly diminished but not derailed by expensive oil, while fast growing Asian importers continue to show evidence of strong demand.

Reuters, AFP

## Asia shares gain on concern over global growth

SINGAPORE—Asian shares edged higher on Tuesday as investors showed increasing concern about threats to global economic growth.

Japan's Nikkei index ended up 0.12 percent at 10,672.46, as banks and insurers recovered. But exporters were hit recent strength in the yen.

"I don't think we've seen the end of this bout of dollar weakness," said Tohru Sasaki, chief forex strategist at JPMorgan Chase in Tokyo.

The dollar bought 106.73 yen, barely changed on the day and not far off the six-month low of 106.22 it touched on Monday.

An MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.25 percent, led by its consumer products component. Its technology component fell 0.93 percent, pulled by countervailing trends.

In Asia, Advantest Corp., the world's largest maker of chip testing devices, jumped 4.01 percent ahead of an earnings report that showed a near 12-fold rise in half-year profit.

But Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract microchip maker, dropped 2.31 percent just before posting record profits that jumped 84 percent from a year earlier. Rival United Microelectronics Corp. lost 2.46 percent.

Analysts said Taiwan's losses mirrored sector declines elsewhere on Friday. Taiwan's markets were closed on Monday due to a typhoon, and the benchmark index fell 1.94 percent on Tuesday.

Shares in Japanese banks and insurers rose. Mizuho Financial Group, Japan's biggest lender, was up 2.01 percent and top insurer Milia Holdings Inc. rose 3.7 percent.

Canon Inc. shed 0.98 percent and Honda Motor dropped 1.18 percent.

Benchmark indexes were near flat to up 0.69 percent in Singapore, Australia, South Korea and in Hong Kong.

In Australia, media group News Corp. climbed 3.07 percent after shareholders overwhelmingly supported its plan to shift to the United States. The company also maintained its 2004/05 earnings guidance.

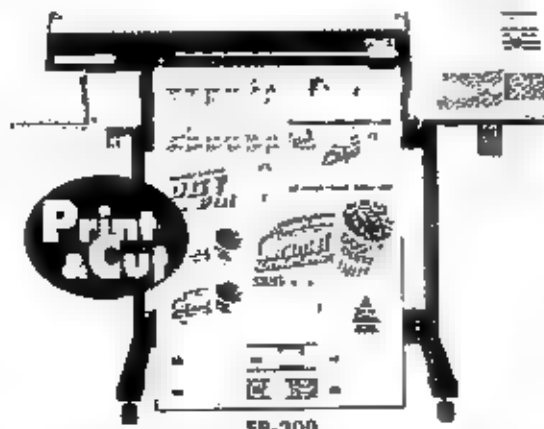
Japanese government bond prices rose fractionally after a 600 billion-yen (\$5.63 billion) auction of 20-year debt. The yield on the benchmark 264th 10-year JGB slid 0.5 basis point to 1.420 percent.

Reuters

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Day before publication

## BENIGNA QUINA TAMAYO

September 19, 1916 - October 25, 2004

Retired Teacher and Former Barangay Captain  
Curriniao, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband Vicente Tamayo  
on October 25, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her loving children Della, Evangelina (?), Concepcion and Raymundo Rafols, Jr., Rosario and James Onda, Ray and Marlou Raguladin, Edwin and Cleofe Sdao; her loving grandchildren Rodney & Raquel, Claire & Manny Salamat, Chandra Jean & John Hopkins, Alyssa Beth, Garth James, Wendy Jane, Warren, Wesley Rae, Eliza May, John Ryan, Kevin Gregory and Marivic; her great grandchildren Christelle Ann, Ember Rose, Pascha Grace, Braeden Reece and Kristine May; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Curriniao, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at Curriniao municipal cemetery on a date to be announced later.

"I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of St. Columban

mourns the death of

## FR. WILLIAM BOURKE

who died in Rhode Island, U.S.A.  
on Mission Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2004  
at the age of 75.

Fr. Bourke was ordained in 1954 and then came to the Philippines. The archdiocese of Ozamiz was to be his place of assignment for the next fifty years. He served in Jimenez as assistant and later as pastor, then in Sinacaban as pastor and finally in Panaon, all neighboring towns in the province of Misamis Occidental. In 1981 he became the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, an office he held up until his death. He continued his pastoral ministry in Panaon until 1988 when he moved to the Columban House in Catadman, Ozamiz, combining the work of house bursar and manager with his work at the Chancery. Fr. Bourke was a greatly loved figure in the Archdiocese of Ozamiz.

May he rest in peace.

Whoever  
finds  
his life  
will  
lose it,  
and  
whoever  
loses  
his life  
for my  
sake will  
find it.  
Matthew 10:39

## Dr. Francisco C. Tiburcio

of Marikina City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord  
on October 23, 2004 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife Nina; daughters and in-laws Bien and Geoff Johnstone, Shirla and Philip Raldan; grandchildren Nicole, Jason & Lauren.

Brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at De Guzman Funeral Homes, J.P. Rizal, Sta. Nino, Marikina City.

Interment will be today, October 27, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Panaretos Paz.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## Nat'l theater festival gala events at CCP

THE MUCH awaited theater event of the year, Ikaong Tagap: the 2004 National Theater Festival, which will feature the best of Philippine music theater, will hold its events from Nov. 6 to 18, 2004 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Dubbed as Piging: Gala Events, the performances include: Tian Jin Children's Peking Opera Troupe, child prodigies of the Tian Jin Theater perform highlights from kunju and wunqu masterpieces Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, set on Nov. 6-7, 6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 3 p.m.; the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir will return in Manila in a back-to-back concert with the country's award-winning Lohoe children's choir in Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at Aliw Theater, Star City; Gilisil Pagdiriwang ng Opera Pilipina, with the Philippine Opera Guild, the Philippine Opera Company, UP Conservatory of Music, the UST Conservatory and the Philippine Madrigal Singers to perform favorite areas from "La Loba Negra," "Spoliarium," "Noli Me Tangere," "Bakas ng Selya" and other Philippine operative works by noted Filipino composers. Herminigildo Ranera conducts the PPO, to be slated on Nov. 10, Ryan Cuyabab, 2004 Gawad CCP Awardee takes audiences on musical journey of songs from "Larawan," "Rama Hari," "Magsimula Ka," "Kary" and other landmark musicals in Buhay! Mga Himig at Awit ng Dulang Filipino, slated on Nov. 12-13, 8 p.m. Leading performers from people's theater reunite in a musical homage to "seductive" sarawela, street musicals and protest concerts in Hanes! Natatanging Tagap mula sa Musikangbayan, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. and, Isang Bagong Biyolin, a modern ballet and musical theater with the Philippine Ballet Theater on Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

Ikaong Tagap is a presentation of the CCP in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The festival will also feature children's musicals, premieres and revivals, late night cabaret, singthroughs, forums, exhibits, caucuses and international meetings. Move-over performances will also be held in associate venues in the City of Manila, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, GSIS Theater, Aliw Theater and Marikina Theater.

For more information, please call the CCP Performing Arts Department at tel. no. 832-1125 local 1606-1607 and CCP Marketing at locals 1800-1806 or direct lines 832 3681 / 832-3878 / 551-7930 or visit the "Ikaong Tagap" website at [www.cculc.cccenter.gov.ph/nlf](http://www.cculc.cccenter.gov.ph/nlf).

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### Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004

The 2nd Philippine Exhibition and Conference on Job, Livelihood, Investment and Business Opportunities for the Seafarers and their Families

back-to-back with -

### Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs

### Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004

The 1st Philippine Exhibition on Real Estate Projects and Home Necessities for the OFW and SME Families

12-14 November 2004 \* 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, Building B, Megamall



and



Greetings from the Inquirer Classifieds and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and POFW-SMEFI are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services for the OFW (including seafarers) and SME families.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid-sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the

### Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 back-to-back with Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 SUPPLEMENT

This will definitely be the reference of choice. The Supplement is scheduled for release on November 12, 2004 at the opening of the above-mentioned events. In line with this, we are providing you with the following special advertising rates:

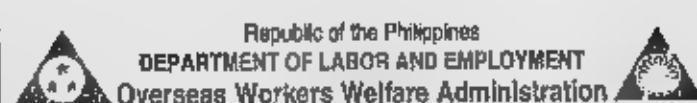
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For more information, call the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (832) 912-58-03 and (832) 437-16-60 with Fax No. (832) 437-16-59; 24-hour mobile 0918-7421768, and E-mail: [goarcom@tri-ays.com](mailto:goarcom@tri-ays.com)



TO : ALL ACCREDITED PDOS TRAINERS

Subject : Re-Orientation Course in PDOS Management

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will be conducting a series of Re-Orientation Course in Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) Management for all accredited PDOS Trainers on 29 October 2004 and 05, 19 and 26 November 2004. This is in line with the development program and finalization of list of accredited PDOS Trainers. Those who fail to comply will be deemed no longer interested and will be deleted from the registry of trainers.

All accredited trainers are advised to submit a letter of intent on or before 28 October 2004, addressed to The Director, Plans and Programs Office (PPO), OWWA Bldg. ng, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ronald A. Mina or Mr. John A. Macalincag at 8917763 or 8917601 loc. 5620.

(Sgd.) MARIANITO D. ROQUE  
Administrator

PHI-Oct. 27, 28 & 29, 2004

### PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY MAGTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1

Lapu-Lapu City  
Tel nos. 3400-590, 3400-594, 3400-591, Telefax no. 3402949

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

- The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-MEZ 1 invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Contract SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT OF PEZA at the Cebu Ecozone located in Lapu-Lapu City & Balamban, Cebu.
- The Approved Budget for the Contract is P 7,054,683.72 part of Cebu Ecozone Operating Budget.
- Duration of the Contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the contract.
- Application for Eligibility is open to interested Bidders, juridical or individual, who meet the following requirements:
  - Must be PROVED accredited but need not be PEZA accredited.
  - No existing contract with any locator in any ECOZONE in Cebu.
  - Must have existing security guards available for immediate placement as required in the contract.
- Application for Eligibility, Bid Documents and forms will be available for issuances starting October 20, 2004 to October 27, 2004 from MEZ 1 BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ 1 Lapu-Lapu City upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.
- Pre-Bid conference is scheduled at 2 P.M. October 29, 2004 at the Conference Room, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ 1.
- Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Eligibility and Bid Documents in three (3) separate envelopes marked as such (1) First Envelope - Eligibility Documents Envelope, (2) Second Envelope - Bid Envelope - Technical Proposal, (3) Third - Bid Envelope - Financial Proposal will be at 2:00 P.M., Nov. 12, 2004, the bidding date at the same venue.
- The PEZA-MEZ 1 BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids which are defective or informally assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that they may incur in the preparation of the eligibility requirements of the bids and to accept the bid advantageous to the Government. The provision of R.A. 5184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to the bidding process.

(Sgd.) BAC, MEZ 1  
BELENIA B. LOBITANA

PHI-Nov. 20 & 21, 2004

## NAPOLCOM, BCDA FORGES HOUSING/LAND SWAP DEAL

National Police Commission (Napolcom) chair and DILG Secretary Angelo T. Reyes (left) and Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) vice president for operations Rex Chan (right) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that gave Napolcom 2,250 housing units worth P650 million located in Pamayanang Diego Silang in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Under the agreement, Napolcom also retained 57 thousand square meters of its land in Fort Bonifacio and got an additional 13 thousand square meters. In exchange, BCDA received a two hectare property in Camp Bago Bantay, Quezon City which was also sold to Bellevue Properties, a subsidiary of SM Investments. BCDA also got a 30 thousand square meter land in Bonifacio Global City that covers the institutional area where the British School is located and a portion of the commercial area. Among the officials present during the MOA signing include BCDA vice president for business development Alleen Zosa, BCDA manager for Land and Asset Development Dean Santiago and PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay.





# People, Events & Products

Editor Arles Espinosa

## Convergent market: Can managers anticipate?

CONVERGENCE, the business strategy of bringing together of originally disparate products and services to become one, is a well-rooted and global phenomenon. With the key drivers being the emergence of new technologies, deregulation and globalization, and the receptivity of customers, no industry is exempt from potential convergence.

AC Nielsen-Asia Pacific president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr. asserted that it must become part of the strategic planning process whenever management sits down to think how they may compete successfully in their markets. "If you don't do it, your competition may, and worse, they may be working on it already," he added.

According to Niles, it is a result of

overt symptoms such as the blurring and elimination of traditional market boundaries; the erosion of traditional entry barriers; companies defining their competition much more broadly; widespread investigation of brand extension and emphasis on relationship marketing.

However, convergence may be under-integrated into marketing and strategic thinking due to lack of awareness that it is happening in all sectors, lack of appreciation of convergence as a source of competitive advantage; need to think "outside the box" and to rewrite of conventional industry boundaries and industry definition and lack of awareness of enabling technologies such as e-commerce and digital technology.

Learn more about all these in Niles'

presentation on the topic "Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?" in the upcoming Agora Conference 2004 on Oct. 28 and 29 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. This year's theme is "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market."

Organized by the Philippine Marketing Association, the conference will gather other marketing authorities: Karen De Asis, faculty and marketing director of DLSU Graduate School of Business; Ferdinand De La Cruz, head of Globe Telecom's wireless business group; Hon. Luis Lorenzo; and Tom Banguis Jr., president of AB Communications Inc. For inquiries, call the association secretariat at 634-4890; 634-5722; and 631-3286 or e-mail: pma@philonline.com.



### ARANETA CENTER NOW PEZA REGISTERED

Araneta Center Inc. (ACI) was recently awarded a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) registration, which officially recognizes the Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center as information technology (IT) buildings. IT buildings or parks are areas that provide amenities and infrastructure support necessary for the promotion of the IT industry. Araneta Center's Gateway Office Tower and

Gateway Call Center are expected to be the next IT hub in Quezon City. Present during the signing were ACI president and COO Teofilo R. Asuncion (2nd from left) and Peza director general Lilia S. de Lima (2nd from right). The signing was witnessed by Progressive Development Corp. vice president for business John Castelo (left) and Araneta Center research manager Eugene Barcelona.

## A solution to micronutrient deficiency

MANY western countries are finding ways to curb the growing problem of obesity. But in countries like the Philippines, the problem of malnutrition persists.

Malnutrition is a condition caused by inadequate nutrient intake and digestion, resulting from unbalanced diet, digestive disorder, and absorption problem. The condition is common among children but even adults and elderly individuals may suffer from it. Vitamin A deficiency, protein-energy malnutrition, iodine deficiency disorder and iron deficiency anemia are the common micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) deficiencies seen in children and adults.

To prevent this problem, consumption of micronutrient-rich food is encouraged, along with food fortification, or the addition of one or more nutrients, which is absent or present in small amounts to a food. Medical supplementa-

tion is also vital to decrease the incidence of micronutrient deficiency.

Bucizine with iron (available as Propan with Iron) is one of the more effective supplements to help against micronutrient malnutrition. Iron plays an essential role in respiration and is considered as the "backbone of the energy producing process." It also contains vitamin B-complex including thiamine (Vitamin B1) and niacin. These vitamins aid in carbohydrate metabolism and prevent pellagra (skin affection characterized by redness, scaling and shedding with gastrointestinal disturbance) respectively. It helps maintain appetite and normal intestinal function.

Furthermore, vitamin B6 group (pyridoxine, pyridoxal and pyridoxamine) combines with phosphorous for fatty acid, glucose and amino acid metabolism. Vitamin B6 deficiency can

cause central nervous system disturbances. While vitamin B12 and closely related cobalamins function as protein synthesizer. Inadequacy of vitamin B12 causes nervous system degeneration, amenorrhea (irregular menstrual cycle) and pernicious anemia.

Bucizine with iron is one of the most frequently prescribed medications for micronutrient deficiencies. It has been shown to help in proper respiration and blood oxygenation. It contains bucinine, a known appetite builder, also enhances the appetite of elderly individuals, convalescent patients, and those with tuberculosis.

Propan with Iron is distributed by Pascual Laboratories Inc.

For more information on the benefits of bucinine, call the propan hotline at 426-5639 or e-mail: multi@pascual-lab.com from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.



### PROJECT WET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Nestlé Waters Philippines recently conducted a whole-day Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) workshop for the officers of the Laguna Lake Development Authorities (LLDA) at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Bureau. Project WET aims to encourage educators to approach

learning and teaching with an environmental perspective and equips them with innovative methods of teaching about wonders and concerns of our water resources and the environment. Shown is a Project WET facilitator demonstrating one of the easy-to-learn, interactive and fun activities.

## Up-to-date services from Ellen's Aesthetic Center

BEAUTY is skin deep. But to be able to achieve long and lasting beauty, it has to be supported with utmost care. Pampering one's self is not an easy task, but if you have the drive to do it, you can easily achieve it. Maintaining one's healthy skin can be very taxing sometimes. You need to be patient and cool, with the pricey amount that goes with the package. Indeed, the price of being beautiful can really be very hurtful on the pocket.

Nor with Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetic Center. The customer's skin and well-being are its primary concern over the fee. A lot of Ellen's customers can attest to the fact that it has one of the most affordable payment schemes in the market. And its surgical and non-surgical services are at par with the most expensive and the

so-called "leaders" in this field.

Ellen's has been known for permanent cosmetics (upstroke, eyebrow and eyeliner). It now offers more up-to-date services such as body whitening treatments, whitening scrub (a special formula of AHA and lactic acid scrub to help skin achieve a clearer complexion), whitening scrub with whitening mask (a plant extract associated with vitamin C to regulate the production of melanin while reducing tyrosinase to complete the whitening process of the skin, and underarm whitening scrub (that exfoliates the dead skin). Also available in the Center are diamond peel and laser hair removal.

Its Miracle Whitening Cream is the bestseller among Ellen's top-of-the-line products, especially for those who have problems in the hid-

den dark spots of the body (groin, nape, elbows and underarms). It can do wonders in just one week. The Miracle Whitening Lotion is also available in maintaining the skin's flawless complexion. Soon, the Miracle Whitening Scrub Soap will be available.

Meanwhile, for surgical services, Ellen's liposuction still tops the list followed by the nose lift, breast augmentation and the new chin reduction. Certified plastic surgeons trained abroad will handle all operational procedures in the Center.

For more questions and free consultations, call Ellen's hotline at 374-6665.



out of 6,967 examinees with a grade of 86.57 percent where only 20.08 percent passed. Five years ago, Bro. Rafe Donato, former president of the school, invited Hernando M. Vilas, chair of the board of trustees of Vilas Foundation, to sponsor several of its scholars and join the Foundation for Sharing La Salle Education. Vilas readily accepted it with the end in view of producing another San Jose W. Dickson from Balangas in this millennium. Incidentally, Ka Pepe Dickson graduated Summa Cum Laude at La Salle-Taft and topped the CPA Board Exams.

selling profession. For more details, call Apsa at 525-7238, 525 7277 or 525-7336 and look for Clea, Teng, Nette or Coy.

### Torino among CPA top 10

KATHLEEN Torino, a consistent Dean's lister and graduated cum laude from La Salle-Lipa, is number 20 in the recent CPA Board Exams.



### Guidance Circle of the Philippines confab

THE GUIDANCE Circle of the Philippines, in cooperation with As an Psychological Services and Assessment Corp (Apsa) and the Association of Psychological and Educational Counselors of Asia Pacific (Apeca) will hold its 4th Annual Convention on Oct. 27 and 28 at the Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. With the theme "Current Perspective and Skills of the Professional Guidance Counselor", the convention aims to present and discuss the different roles of the professional guidance counselor and to tackle issues in the Guidance Coun-

## HALLOWEEN MIDNIGHT SPECIALS!

All Supermalls  
will be open until 12 midnight  
on October 29, 2004.

City Lucena Halloween Special

Oct. 29-30 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Oct. 31- Nov. 1 10 a.m. to 12 midnight

## Product FILES

### Sounds galore!

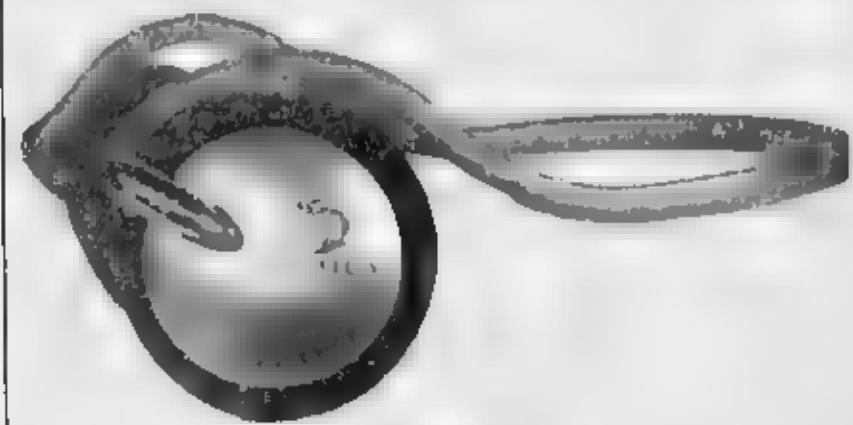
YOU NOW get more value for your money, at the same time enjoying a whole new approach to your singing pleasure. In-A Jiffy Enterprises (IAJE), exclusive distributor

of WOW! Magic Sing Premium, the number one selling videoke microphone in the country, has taken home entertainment a step further with the introduction of a new

member of its family, the Neckphone.

The Neckphone is a lightweight and trendy set that clips over your ears and swing around the back of your head. The sound quality is above average for neckphones. The highs are strong and clear with plenty of presence. The bass is much stronger and deeper and the heavy lows are big and smooth. The device is so user friendly that it simply connects directly to the microphone. In addition, the device is the perfect partner with the microphone's record and play feature, which gives you a recording studio effect.

The Neckphone comes free with every purchase of a WOW! Magic Sing Premium videoke microphone.





# PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer.paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Raul O. Marcelo  
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

## PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

# Is the Internet working at work?

By Janice Gotanco  
and Gina Hechanova,  
Ateneo CORD  
Contributors

PEOPLE  
AT WORK  
Pulse



INTERNET-CONNECTIVITY has already become the standard in any work setting. Chances are if you're not connected to the Net, you'll be left behind. Internet technology can enhance the productivity and growth of businesses. Companies and organizations use the Internet to get connected to people and information anytime, anywhere. Employees are able to access global information at the click of a button. Letters, deals and contracts are sent via e-mail and can reach you within seconds. This allows employees and organizations to become more efficient and productive.

However, just like information placed in the hands of a misguided person, unlimited, unrestricted and unsupervised Internet access can be misused and abused by employees. As the Internet age has altered the way we conduct business, it has also changed work activities and practices in the organization. Although the Internet can help employees accomplish more, organizations today are having a more difficult time directing and monitoring employee productivity and behavior because more and more work activities are becoming virtual, and are, therefore, harder to observe, control and trace. As such, People at Work Pulse wanted to find out how exactly is the Internet used in the workplace.

### Survey results

People at Work Pulse conducted a survey to see what activities were done in the Internet while at work. Out of the 150 respondents who participated, 92 percent said that they had Internet access at work while only a minimal 8 percent said they had none. These respondents were composed of 36 percent males and 64 percent females.

The average age of the respondents was 32 years old, ranging from 21 to 75 years of age. Employed in various organizations such as insurance firms, call centers, banks, government agencies, consulting firms, schools, manufacturing, electronics and multinationals, companies, these respondents occupy and work in different levels and departments in their organizations.

At an average, these respondents used the Internet for 3.56 hours per day. They utilized 76 percent of their Internet time for work-related activities and 24 percent for non-work related activities. These non-work related activities included personal instant messaging (35 percent) such as Yahoo Messenger, ICQ, and MSN messenger; listening to the radio or music via the Internet (19 percent); downloading music, movies and software (13 percent); playing Internet computer games (9 percent) and others, such as checking personal e-mail, reading the news, completing banking transactions, researching, and blogging.

Common websites visited by employees that were non-work related included personal e-mail accounts (72 percent), news (44 percent), entertainment (30 percent), chat rooms, message boards, Friendster (25 percent), sites for downloading free software or music (19 percent), sports (15 percent), shopping (9 percent), and pornography (7 percent). Other sites mentioned by the respondents were banking, educational, and graphics or picture sites, hobby sites, their personal websites, blogs, online advertisements,



Google, and Jobstreet.

### Downtime

While Internet at work has mostly been put to good use—updating clients on their accounts, researching on market information, sending business e-mails, communicating with partners locally or abroad, buying and selling through the company website—it has also been the cause of downtime at work. Downtime is used to refer to time lost by the organization when an employee engages in activities not directed towards his or her job and overall company productivity as opposed to activities that could have benefited the company. Simply put, downtime means the organization did not get what it had supposedly paid for. From the survey results, on average, downtime is a little less than one hour per day (51 minutes to be exact) as employees spend 24 percent of their Internet time at work doing non-work related activities. This amounts to a little less than five to six hours per week. The implication: three-fourths of one day a week is wasted due to downtime.

### Policies and privileges

Companies have taken steps to address these issues by providing Internet usage policies. Having policies for Internet use is helpful for both management and employees to clarify the do's

and don'ts, acceptable and unacceptable practices on Internet use at work. According to the survey, 70 percent of companies have Internet policies in place. Most companies employ and implement a right to access e-mails, documents, and any other transactions done through the company computers. Although this may be seen as a violation of one's privacy, companies have the right to monitor and control the resources and technology they provide employees. Fortunately, 82 percent of the respondents agree with this condition. And while some companies extend the privilege for employees to use the Internet for personal purposes, it is good practice for management to clarify, communicate and publish rules, monitor Internet usage, and correct inappropriate Internet practices and behaviors. On the part of employees, it is fair behavior to respect company resources and contribute to overall productivity, and business health by using Internet at work for its intended purpose.

(Gotanco is a graduate student of M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila Hechanova is a faculty member and director for Research and Organizational Development of Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to this article to ateneo-cord@admu.edu.ph.)

## Current views on labor unions

PEOPLE  
AT WORK  
Pulse



PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or is it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in.

This "pulse" will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month.

To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from respondents of last month's survey are Mifell Ann Garcia and Flor Estrella (please contact The Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. Does your company have a union?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  2. Are you a union member?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  3. What do you think of the objectives of unions?  
☐ a. Supportive  
☐ b. Neutral  
☐ c. Adversarial
  4. How relevant are unions to you?  
(1 - very irrelevant to 5 - very relevant)
  5. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) What is the relationship of your company to its union?  
☐ a. Supportive  
☐ b. Neutral  
☐ c. Adversarial
  6. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) How do employees in your company perceive their union?  
☐ a. pro-management  
☐ b. pro-employees  
☐ c. takes balanced view between management and employees
  7. Given a choice, would you like to be a member of the union?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  8. In your opinion, are unions beneficial to employees?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
- Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Civil Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of job: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Industry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel./Mobile/E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
- Mail or fax this form or email text your answers to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2/F. Hoffner Bldg., Socia Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Fax forms to 426 6065, e-mail: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text answers to 0920-8319522. Write topic 1 (answer), 2 (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

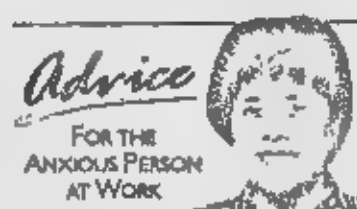
## 'I want to work in human resources'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM an avid reader of People at Work. I usually cut the articles and highlight important points in career planning and self-development. I graduated last March from an exclusive school. Being the pride of the class and with very good academic standing, I never thought finding a job would be hard for me. It took me 150 resumes distributed to different companies to get a job.

Due to the country's economic problems, I am compelled to accept the job as a credit acquisition staff in an international bank on a project basis. Truthfully, I became depressed because I wasn't able to get the job I really want which is in human resources. I dream to be a training executive someday because I love facilitating activities and communicating with people. I have gone to a lot of interviews but, unfortunately, I am not accepted because of tight competition in HR. I carefully scanned my resume and I think I have given enough information. Does determination to get the job give a negative impression to the interviewer?

My contract will end this November and I don't know what to do. I am a self-supporting individual and my parents are in the province. Of course, it will be lonely being jobless this coming Christmas. I wish to be employed in an advertising or a multinational company (particularly in the manufacturing in-



Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

dustry) because of more training opportunities, structured organization and the chance to hone my skills.

I always dream to be an efficient and multi-skilled individual. But how can I be motivated in my job if it is not what my heart truly desires? Should I wait for a couple of months longer for a good job offer? I want to feel the energy and excitement of coming to the office everyday.

I would like to attend seminars and pursue a master's degree but for now I don't have the money and my parents can't afford it. Success for me is not money or power but being happy in a job that will satisfy and complete me. Please help me. Sometimes while at work I secretly cry at my desk because I imagine working in a job which I truly desire that is in human resources.

May God bless you more! Please reply when you receive this. More power!

HR Passionate

I can empathize with your desire to work in the field of human resources. However, at this point in your career you have little experience. You have to be patient with yourself. Make the most out of your present job.

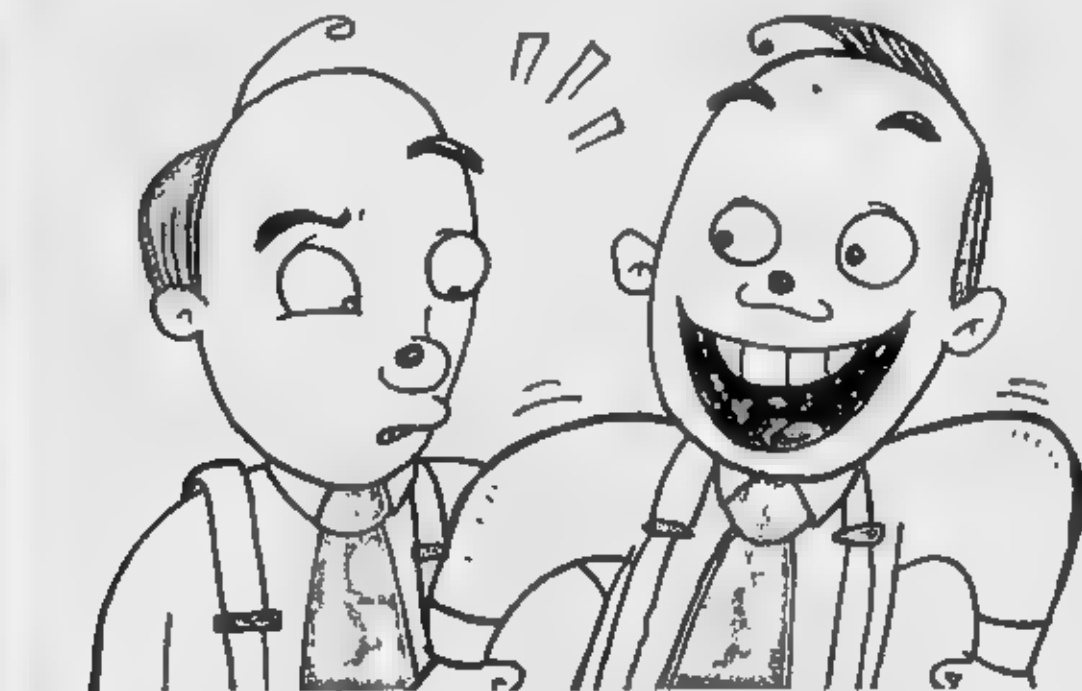
Then, persevere in sending out your resumes to the companies where you want to work when your contract ends in November. Don't wait, be proactive.

Reading your letter, I may have some clues why you have difficulty landing a job. You may have graduated with good academic standing but I am sorry to say that your written communication skills need improvement. I noticed that the letter you sent me was studded with spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. I spent some time editing it for publication. May I suggest you ask a friend with a mastery of the English language to go over your resume and review for possible spelling and grammatical errors. Then again, you may have to practice oral English and get ready for interviews.

You failed to mention in your letter the college course you completed. Is it related to human resource management or development? Human resource management has a body of knowledge behind it. You may have to acquire the competencies required of a human resource practitioner.

Then, you may want to ask yourself, what are your motivations for wanting to go into human resources? You mentioned training and facilitating courses. This specialization would require proficient use of English. You may need to get remedial English lessons to give you a fighting chance to land a job.

Based on my knowledge of the



## How do you find the right CEO coach?

DEAR WW: I've decided that I should hire a CEO coach. How do I find the best coach for me and how can I get the most out of him or her?

Win One For The Glipper

When you go to hire your CEO coach, don't do what Basant and Anita Jain have done. The Jains are a husband and wife team who own a bookstore in India, and for the last 14 years they've worn only matching outfits—her son always matching his pants and shirt.

The "twin thing" works great for the Jains. But that kind of clone approach will lead to failure with a business coach. You want someone who can help you get a new perspective on yourself and your challenges—not someone who looks and thinks the same way you do. So interview prospective coaches using the questions below. For more, check out D.A. Benton's "Secrets of a CEO Coach" (McGraw Hill, 1999).

### WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



What can I expect to achieve working with you? Listen to the goals the coach proposes for yourself and your company. They should be things you'd like to achieve. But they might also be things you hadn't thought of, but which, on reflection, make sense for where you need to go.

What experience have you had with similar companies and leaders? Has the coach had experience with companies similar to yours in size, industry and culture? Has she worked with leaders similar to you? Has she encountered problems similar to those you're having? How has she

helped clients solve those problems?

What mistakes will you help me avoid? Ask what challenges the coach foresees in your future. How will she help you handle them?

Who will actually work with me? If you're contracting with a large training firm, you may spend more time with lower-level people than you do with your coach. Be sure you meet with the people you'd be working with, and are comfortable with both their styles and their credentials.

How do you charge for your services? According to Ms. Benton, coaches generally charge between \$2,500 and \$10,000 for a program. Ask if they have a money back guarantee. Some actually do!

Do you have a track record of helping clients accomplish their

HOW DO YOU?

I WANT/013



# Company that develops its people as leaders bags award

By Candy G. Villanueva  
Contributor

FOR PFIZER, developing their employees into leaders could translate to healthier, longer and happier lives for Filipinos. It is with this thrust that the 50-year-old pharmaceutical company bagged the E-nip over of the Year Award for 2004. Pfizer is a global, research-based health care company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the world's best-known consumer products like Vaseline, Listerine and Tylenol.

This year, Pfizer received one of the most sought after awards in the country from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. "We, in Pfizer, are deeply honored to have been given this outstanding distinction. It motivates us to pursue with even more intensity our commitment to be a premier employer and most importantly to make a difference in the communities where we work and live," says Rey Gerardo Bacarro, Pfizer president and country manager. The Employer of the Year award is a fitting gift as the company celebrated its 50th year in the business. Pfizer was given the award to honor it for its exceptional accomplishments, especially in the area of human resources.

## Well-rounded

"I think they picked us as employer of the year because we are a well-rounded company," says Marian Leander, human resources director of Pfizer Philippines. The Employer of the Year award was given to Pfizer for its outstanding management of its most important asset: its people. This was demonstrated by the company's leadership, strategic human resource planning, human resource focus, process management and business results.

The company was applauded for its many HR initiatives which consist of company-wide training and mentoring programs and a total compensation package that includes a pioneering flexible

## ALL ABOUT WORK



benefits program that makes way for growth and development. The management of Pfizer believes that it is not enough that the employees of Pfizer are happy and content. Pfizer also strives to develop their people into movers and leaders. The company has a leadership team that works to draw out excellence from the employees. By achieving this, Pfizer hopes to develop people with a passion to make the lives of Filipinos healthier, longer and happier.

## Employee development

Pfizer measures its success not in profits alone. They measure it based on how they can create benefits for their own people and ultimately for the Filipinos. For the company, developing their employees means training them to be leaders. "We take our responsibilities for leadership very seriously. We want our people to be developed as leaders," says Leander. The company operates on the belief that by bringing up the skill level of their employees, they are able to influence the industry to rise up to their greatest potential. And by achieving this, Pfizer believes that they can become a leader in the business.

Part of Pfizer's development programs include a business leadership program with the Asian Institute of Management to involve managers to identify areas in the company that could use improvement. The program is an interactive practical course that encourages the managers to practice what they learned.

"There's also a lot in it for the company because we have identified a lot of projects that have enabled us to raise the bar not just in our organization but also in the community," Leander adds.

## Providing opportunities

An innovative company, Pfizer has designed and experimented



Pfizer human resources team members pursuing excellence through intensive commitment: seated (L-R), Mara Barretto, Cuckoo Benipayo, Marian Leander and Char Bolde; standing (L-R): Aileen Inocencia, Mawes Rodriguez-Maglunog, Eden Sagisi, Con Vicado-Barcala, Laima Sevilla and Ayla Restua.

on several unconventional programs and incentives for their greatest assets. "We've been very much a risk taker because we've initiated some activities that normally people wouldn't think of doing," claims Leander. Part of their unconventional programs includes training their Professional Health Care Representatives (PHCRs) or medical representatives in sales management or marketing under Ateneo de Manila's Leadership and Management Development Program. The program is normally given to top managers only but Pfizer wants to open this opportunity to their PHCRs. "We want to give them a broader perspective to make them step up to the plate in terms of leadership. Through projects like this we are able to make them better potential leaders."

Another experimentation by Pfizer is the program that takes non-sales people in as PHCRs. "We think it's an investment on their part as well as ours because they are put in the field and they are treated like any other reps in other professional health care companies," says Leander. By allowing them direct interaction with the customers, the non-sales people can bring a different perspective in the job. But according to Leander, this is just a side effect. The program's primary goal is to

allow the employees to develop in the field that they want to be in. "A lot of times when they apply for a marketing position they're not taken in because they don't have any sales experience and they lose out and it doesn't make for happy employees if they don't feel like they have opportunities."

## HR's role

Pfizer credits its innovative employee programs and initiatives to its HR team. Human Resources plays an important role in bringing the company to its place of excellence in terms of leadership, dynamism and professionalism. The head of HR thinks this is because HR is always a part of strategic planning and decision-making in the company. "HR becomes everyone's job. It's not just my job or my HR team's job. It becomes a part of everybody's job because we all do things through people," says Leander.

Leander believes that the programs and goals that they have set for themselves can only reach fruition if they can expect commitment from their own people.

With this in mind, the company hopes to make HR managers out of every manager. According to Leander, every manager must know how to manage people and deal with issues and problems within his or her team.

## 'Mommy, why did you not kiss me?'

IT IS ANOTHER harried morning for me, and my daughter knows it. Knowing she only has a few minutes to spend with me this morning, she tries to keep up with my pace, hurrying to lay out her clothes, stuffing her school bag, and rushing into the bathroom to take her shower. When the heater takes too long, she stomps her feet and is near tears. I can hardly control my irritation. I snap, "It won't make the water any hotter faster," I say.

I go downstairs for breakfast. I hardly have time to chew, and hear Simone's whining anxiety upstairs. "Stop it," I holler. "Coo, it!" My taxi arrives before I have time to check on her again, and I fly out of the house, bear-hugging my boys. Simone is calling for me. But I'm very, very late for my shoot, for my meeting, for whatever I was waiting for me in the office. I just have to go.

The feeling nags at me two hours later, in between appointments. I call Simone up on her cell but she doesn't answer. I figure she's in class or in the playground. Later, she texts me in her halting, careful English, explaining that her phone was in her bag, sorry that she couldn't answer and why did I call? I reply, "Nothing, anak. I just wanted to say sorry for shouting this morning." Her answer has me falling back in my seat, the expression on my face changing so that my companions ask me what's wrong.

"It's ok, mommy," is my daughter's reply. "But why did you not kiss me?"

I am felled with shame, guilt and the overwhelming sickness and bewilderment that Derek Zoolander must've felt when a dozen miniature Muganús started dancing "Relax" in his mind. It was the first time—save for the times when she was staying over at her father's—that I had missed kissing my daughter goodbye. We always kiss each other hello and goodbye and she always walks me to the gate, smacks me on the lips when I have to go.

"I'm sorry, anak," I reply, close to tears. "I'll never do it again."

## The value of a child's praise

I've never discussed my working mom guilt with Simone. There's never really been an opportunity, nor a need, but I think she's very perceptive about it. She knows that I do feel something lacking about my mothering skills sometimes, and in her limited 7-year-old understanding, has decided to help me deal with it.

I remember one time, weeks before this "why did you not kiss me" incident, I was telling an aunt how impressed I was about the Barretto sisters—Gretchen, Marjorie, and now, Claudine, with her adopted daughter—about how close they were to their kids, how I

wished I were more of a hands-on mom, how great they were as mothers. Simone, who was playing nearby, piped up: "Why mommy? You're a good mom!"

Again, she almost brought me to tears. In that one sentence, she released me from all of my perceived shortcomings as a working mom—my late nights at the office, my stress-related temper, my sometimes zonked out attention span.

When a story is brewing in my brain, I was her mom after all, weird or not, and she loves me as much as I love her. No conditions.

## WORKING MOM



Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

## World-class jerks forgiven

Our children can make us feel like world-class jerks, sometimes. Mainly because we are. Admit it. Here you are, thinking you're saving the world or the future of the publishing industry—by doing your bit, bleeding for your work, impressing presidents and audiences of millions and coming up with brilliant money-making plans, sucking up to tycoons, when actually, the warm applause that ready matters is at home.

Your kids won't mind if you're a couple of days late for your deadline. They will absolve you if you don't make the sales quota for the month. They will forgive and forget and let you off easier than the kindest superior. They will brush aside things like shouting and being picked up late from school and you not being there to help them with their homework. Their capacity for love and forgiveness is boundless. This you know, this you feel when their little arms hug you round your waist when they explore your face with their fingers, when their eyes light up when you enter the room. It's a high unmatched by any other—lover, husband, critic's praise—except maybe when you die and are welcomed into heaven.

Such is the power of our children. And all we need to feel that high throughout our lives is to dole out kisses and hugs at home. Not a bad deal at all, if you think about it.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine, which has got a fab new look! Check out the buntis issue, with the alluring Eula Valdez on the cover. For more on dealing with working mom guilt and the kids who forgive us every time—such as the three moms in prison, one of who raised her child from jail—get the October issue of Working Mom now. Feedback is welcome at gina.llanes@abcpinoycenter.com.)

## Jose L. Cuisia Jr. wins CEO of the Year award

THE PHILIPPINE American Life and General Insurance Company takes pride in its President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. for winning the distinction of Chief Executive Officer of the Year in the first Railoocin Awards for Business Excellence.

Mr. Cuisia was among high-ranking nominees from various industries and was chosen for his leadership qualities, management skills, and invaluable achievements both in government and the private sector. His balance of work, family and spiritual life creates a plus point that made him stand out among his peers. The success of insurance giant PhilamLife as one of the most trusted and most recognized names in the insurance industry is also credited to his leadership.

His citation reads: "This gentleman does not confuse wealth with income. His affluence is in the things that can not be counted—in the sense of family he has brought and nurtured to the com-

panies he serves; in the steady leadership he has cultivated in his executives and middle management; in the success of partnerships with under-privileged communities; it is in having constant time to pray and reflect; it is in the smile of his wife and in the tight embrace of his daughters.

"For these—the success of his company under his leadership, his public service as SSS administrator and Central Bank governor, his continuing effort in policy reform and advocacy, his support for the arts through the support for the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, his contribution to the community through the company foundation, for his family and spiritual life."

For 11 years now, Mr. Cuisia has brought PhilamLife to the pinnacle of success: In 2003, PhilamLife registered a 46.7 percent increase in net income and posted gross revenues of P19.4 billion, up 19.2 percent versus the previous year. Since 1993, PhilamLife's gross revenues have increased

more than four-fold, while net investment income and total investment income have increased by more than 400 percent. PhilamLife recently became the first and only Philippine life insurer named a Platinum SuperBrand, according to Readers' Digest 2004 Asian SuperBrands Survey.

In his speech, Mr. Cuisia accepted the award in behalf of his wife and five daughters, whom he described as his inspiration, and also his solace and encouragement during difficult times. "Simply put, they are my highest honors."

He also attributed the award to his colleagues and staff in the company because he believes that leading an enterprise successfully can never be attributed to just one individual. "It needs to be a collective effort of the most dynamic professionals in the business. I continue, therefore, to be blessed by such a fine team of individuals who share the same vision and values that I believe in."



CUISIA

In conclusion, he revealed that his goal is to emulate a successful and well-respected conductor who ensures harmony and synergy among all the different parts of the organization to be able to play beautifully together. It is because as a corporate leader, he believes that "ultimately, the highest value lies in likewise drawing out his people's best talents."

## 'I want to work in human resources'

From page B12

job market, there are many opportunities in the field of human resources for qualified individuals. In fact, it is a field that has gained prestige and recognition in the past decade. But don't despair. Continue to be hopeful. Take one step at a time. First,

stabilize your financial situation. Find a more permanent job that can be a step forward to your dream job. Then, with some cash, go for a remedial course in written and oral English. You can also start to buy books and read on human resources. Then, take some short courses at the Ancilla Business

Training Center. If you are interested in training, you can take a Trainers Training course.

Praying that you'll be happy and thankful in your current job as you prepare yourself for your dream job. God bless you!

By the way, our Journalism Class 1969 is organizing a get-together for the grand reunion of

## How do you find the right CEO coach?

From page B12

goals? Ask for at least 10 references preferably from companies and individuals whose situations were similar to yours. Call the last three on the list. (They're apt to be less glowing than the earlier ones.) Ask what problems they worked on with the coach and

how satisfied they were with the arrangement. What were they dissatisfied with?

What is your experience as a business person? There are a number of coaches out there who come primarily from a coaching background. They can provide valuable insight, but you should also be looking for someone who

understands business too.

When it comes to wardrobe, the Jains are probably not in the market for coaching. But if you follow the tips above, your leadership skills shouldn't fall out of fashion.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/AB-CNews.com online ballot. Could

you use a coach at work?

—No, I know what I'm doing, 5.8 percent.

—It depends, who's paying?, 29.4 percent.

—Yes, it would be great, 64.7 percent.

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

## Harness cyber skills for effective people management

AS WE move towards an increasingly technologically reliant workplace, there are many issues that inform Technology and human resources managers contend with. How do we harness technology for people management? How do we manage employee resistance to computers? How do we protect organizations from Internet-related crimes? All of these issues will be tackled in Cyber HR: Managing the Interface between People and Technology. Topics to be discussed are technologies of the future, state of managers' use of ICT, managing computer resistance, cyber-crimes and preventing employee Internet abuse. The conference will be held on Nov. 18 at the Ateneo Professional School

Auditorium in Rockwell, Makati City. This is a partnership between the Ateneo Information Technology Institute, Ateneo Information Technology Institute and the Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) and is endorsed by the Philippine TSPCI Government Computer Security Incident Response Team.

For reservation, please visit or call the Ateneo Information Technology Institute, 130 H. V. dela Costa St., Sakado Village, Makati City with phone numbers 840-0892, 893-6095 and 840-0912. You can also contact the Ateneo CORD 2/F Haller Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Rd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City with phone numbers 426-6001 loc. 5263 and 426-5931.



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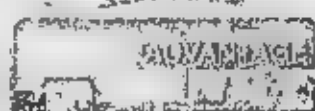


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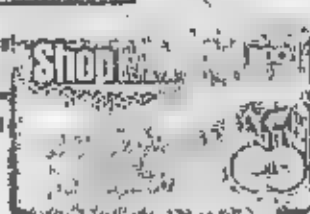
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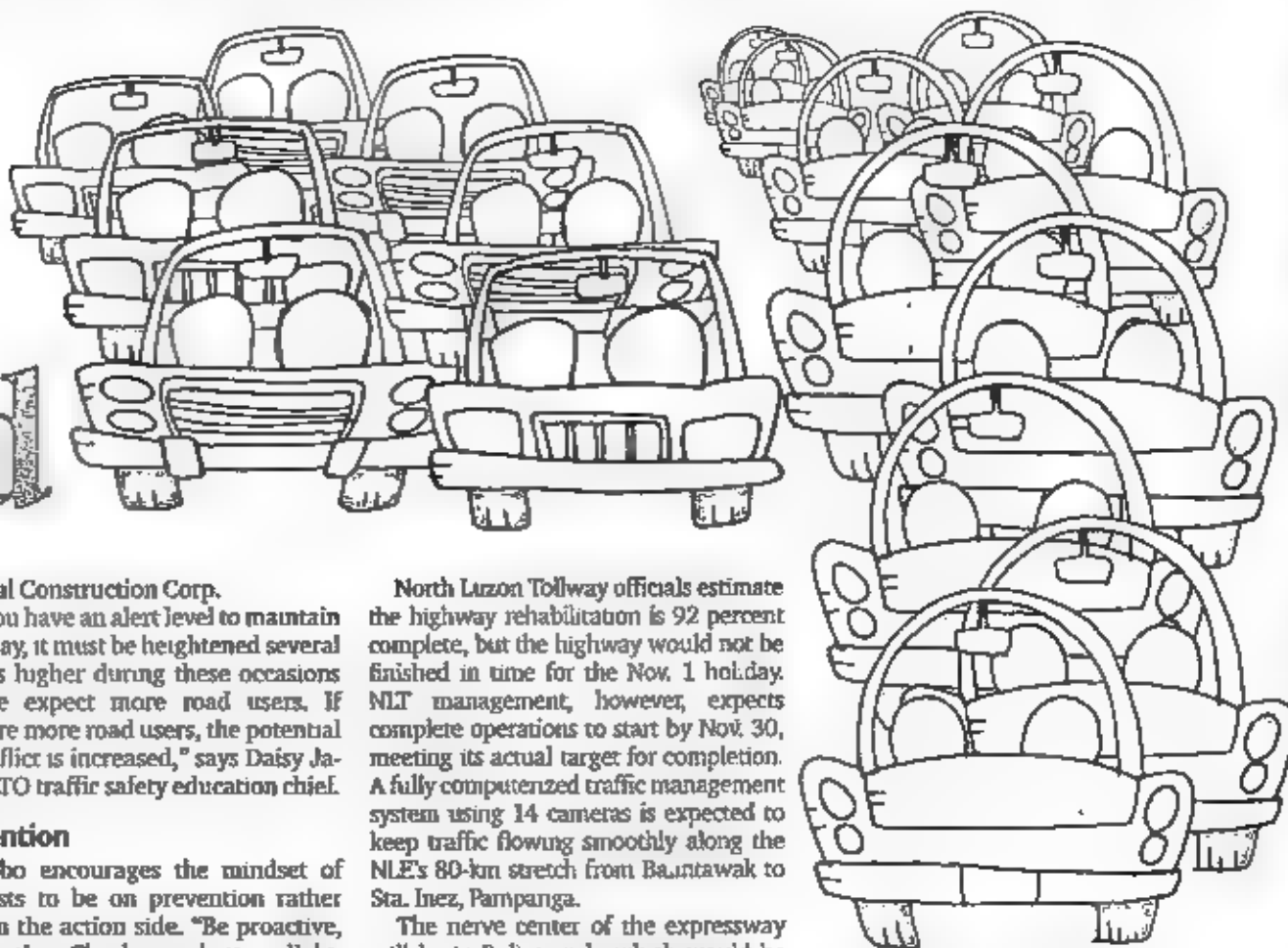


# MOTORING

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

## Traffic ahead as the living visits the dead



By Tessa R. Salazar

**I**F THE DEAD can only visit the living for once, then we'll be spared from All Souls' Day traffic.

But it's a morbid thought, so we might as well put up with the usual traffic buildup this coming weekend—Oct. 30 and 31. Will this year's All Souls' Day exodus to the provinces be similar to previous years in terms of traffic volume and time spent on the road for motorists?

### Easing traffic congestion

On any given day, the South Luzon expressway is used by 200,000 vehicles while the North Luzon expressway is used by 163,000 vehicles. During holidays the volume for the SLEX increases to up to 300,000 vehicles while the NLEX increases up to 200,000 vehicles.

To help ease traffic congestion brought about by increased vehicular volume, PNCC officials last year temporarily stopped the construction of the major segments of the highway to clear up the road of construction equipment and trucks.

This year, as Manila North Tollways Corp. completes the rehabilitation of the NLEX, it says it is studying the dates the construction would again be tem-

porarily stopped and the roads cleared to give way to the expected increase in vehicular volume.

What is certain, though, as a measure to ease traffic flow this year, traffic enforcers would be on the lookout round the clock for overloaded and "road unworthy" vehicles. Deputized agents will man weigh bridges and carry portable axle weighing equipment to monitor not only overloaded trucks but also overloaded vehicles in general.

### Safe driving practices

Traffic enforcers also warn motorists to stick to safe driving practices, as road unworthy vehicles will be prohibited from entering the highway. They also warn drivers to stay alert and drive safe, which means tailgating, unsafe swerving, opening doors while driving and driving under the influence of alcohol and driving drowsy will be closely observed and be meted the necessary fines.

Traffic enforcers advise motorists to correct wobbling wheels and defective lights before embarking on a trip.

Law enforcers from different enforcement agencies, such as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group and deputized agents from the Land Transportation Office will be deployed to complement the existing enforcers of the Philippine

National Construction Corp.

"If you have an alert level to maintain every day, it must be heightened several notches higher during these occasions because expect more road users. If there are more road users, the potential for conflict is increased," says Daisy Jacobo, LTO traffic safety education chief.

### Prevention

Jacobo encourages the mindset of motorists to be on prevention rather than on the action side. "Be proactive, not reactive. Check your battery, light, oil, water, brakes, air (tires), gas and accessories before embarking on the trip."

"We cannot undermine the importance of planning the trip ahead, including one's physical and mental health—especially the drivers."

Jacobo explains that if a driver is stressed, chances are he or she would lead his or her passengers and other motorists to accidents. "One of the much-desired qualities during this time is patience. You should not be highly agitated."

"One who is patient lives to drive another day," says Jacobo.

### Motorists' assistance

The South Luzon expressway enforcers, for their part, will set up motor vehicle inspection points and motorists' assistance in various strategic locations.

North Luzon Tollway officials estimate the highway rehabilitation is 92 percent complete, but the highway would not be finished in time for the Nov. 1 holiday. NLT management, however, expects complete operations to start by Nov. 30, meeting its actual target for completion. A fully computerized traffic management system using 14 cameras is expected to keep traffic flowing smoothly along the NLE's 80-km stretch from Baintawak to Sta. Inez, Pampanga.

The nerve center of the expressway will be in Baintawak, which would be called its operations and maintenance center. Strategic segments along the highway, aided by the cameras, will pick up all traffic and accident situations and relay the information to Baintawak.

Says Manila North Tollways Corp's communications director Marlene Ochoa, "Last year was the height of construction, and we stopped construction on certain days and hours. As of this time, there is no information yet if we are going to do (the same) measures."

Meanwhile, the MNTC office has received motorist complaints that some portions of the NLT were too dark, and the light posts were still not operational. Ochoa reveals that the NLE operations were still being handled by PNCC. "It has not yet been turned over to us yet. We are still not operating the NLE yet," she said.

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## Volvo docu about road safety gold winner in World Media Fest

VOLVO'S documentary about road safety "The Driving Ape," produced by Dockhouse Film & Television, has been awarded "The World Media Festival intermedia globe" Gold in the category Public relations—science and research.

The World Media Festival is a global competition for modern audiovisual communications media and a unique gathering of professionals from all parts of the communication business.

### Entries

This year, more than 300 productions from 23 countries have been presented to the international independent expert jury groups worldwide.

Decisive valuation criteria has been—alongside with the quality of the artistic and technical skills—the effective communication of the message to the intended target group.

### Symbol of highest honor

An award in the World Media Festival is acknowledged internationally as symbol of the highest honors in audiovisual modern communication.

A copy of the film is available in the Philippines through Viking Cars Inc., the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and After-sales Service Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Cen-



ter, Pasig City

The 2004 Volvo automobile line includes the sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the versatile V70 wagon and rugged Cross Country and the all-new seven-seater XC90 AWD.

For inquiries, please call 893-6621 to 22 (Makati showroom) or 637-0414 to 17 (Ortigas showroom).

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# Don't be left behind on the highways

By Tessa R. Salazar

**W**HO wants to be left behind during the holidays on the highway? Besides the obvious risk of exposing your stalled car to fast-moving traffic (we have heard horrifying reports of high-speed collisions involving reckless drivers and stalled cars on the shoulder), watching time pass by helplessly as you wait for assistance is certainly not an ideal way of spending your All Soul's or All Saint's Day vacation.

Come to think of it, any time is not a good time to stop anywhere on our highways, for even the shoulder can be a death trap.

Here's the rub: only you can prevent yourself from being stranded on the highways and exposing you and our loved ones to danger.

## Reminders

Before going on any long distance trip, there must be simple tasks to complete. And these must be performed on all vehicles, whether they may be spanning new straight from the showroom or '70s-era cars. The task is not that all difficult.

• Check the basics. Know the fluid

level in the radiator, crank case, transmission, brakes, power steering and batteries, and make sure the fluid levels are all within the allowable manufacturer levels.

• Make sure your vehicle has fresh oil and filter. Examine the drive belts, the water hoses, the brake lining, the tires and correct tire pressure. Check your car's reserve tire, make sure it's also in good condition and within the correct ure pressure.

If your car is A/T, check the automatic transmission fluid.

## Other safety tips

Then there are simple tasks to ensure the safety of your passengers, especially children. You don't even need to wait until the holidays to follow the following tips.

• Don't seat the child on top of an adult passenger's lap. Children below 6 years old should not be seated in the front passenger seat. It is unsafe, and it is also against the law (Republic Act 8750, or the Seatbelt Act).

But you don't have to tie your child up and stash him back in the trunk. The safest place for a child is on the seat behind the driver. Bring a child seat with you for extra young occupants.

• Examine the safety harness of the car seat and ensure that the seatbelts are securely fastened. If the car has been involved in a previous collision, have the seatbelts examined by the manufacturer



or your repair shop or service center. It is ideal for everyone to wear sturdy three-point seatbelts, and the rear passengers should not wear only lap belts.

• Remove all sharp objects in the

car. When your car runs in excess of 100 kph, so does everything in the car. A misplaced knife or can opener becomes a lethal airborne missile in sudden stops and collisions. Don't allow

children to eat barbecue.

• Ensure the car doors are shut properly and locked. It is a must to remind children not to play with the door locks (though it would be much better if your car has child locks).

• Never allow children to extend their arms or head out the window (For safety and health sake, it would also be advisable to keep your windows shut).

• Don't rush. Remember, you and your family are going on a vacation, not in a WRC tour. So rushing and speeding has no place here. Don't stretch the limits of your car now.

• Don't overload. If you think packing eight people in a five-seater car saves fuel, think again. Not only does overloading make your car's engine work harder than it can dish out, car safety is compromised.

Now, this really happens. You're driving happily along, and suddenly you're pulled over by a highway policeman because you have inadvertently committed a traffic violation. You reach for your license and, voila! It's the great license disappearing act, and you did it at the worst possible time so far away from home. Moral of the trick: make sure your license is with you, and make sure it hasn't expired. An expired license is as worthless as having no license at all. Both will see you at the local police precinct. If that happens, ask your dead to visit you instead and bail you out of the trouble you put yourself in.

## A winning formula, both on the track and in it

MICHAEL Schumacher wrapped up another winning season for the Ferrari Formula One team when he secured the driver's title for the seventh time. Ferrari and Shell are well known for their Formula One partnership, but a recent project in Italy saw the two working together quite literally from the ground up.

Shell Bitumen used its latest technology to resurface Ferrari's Fiorano test track and enable the manufacturer to put its current generation of super cars and those planned for the future to the ultimate test of man, machine and track. Ferrari is expecting to set its test drivers to work immediately, analyzing cars' drivability, braking, centrifugal ef-

fects and maneuverability on the billiard-smooth surface.

Said Shell Bitumen technical manager for Germany Martin Vondenhof: "While the cars are being pushed to the limit, the bitumen will also have to work hard. The Formula One cars will reach speeds of up to 290 kilometers per hour on the track so there is

no room for error."

The bitumen grade Shell Cariphalte was chosen for the job because it is known for striking just the right balance between the flexibility and toughness required for Formula One racing circuits. Shell Cariphalte has also been used in Formula 1 racetracks like the Sepang Race Track in

Malaysia, Bahrain, Hockenheim, Nurburgring; Motorcycle Grand Prix tracks like Losail in Qatar; and the Zhuhai International racetrack in China.

Shell Cariphalte is now available in the Philippines, used as a heavy-duty asphalt binder for airports, highways and racetracks.



BMW continues to lead the luxury car segment with record sales.

## BMW sets sales records in September

THE BMW GROUP continued its successful course worldwide by delivering 118,173 BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce cars to customers, for a 15 percent increase in sales in September.

Also this month, the BMW brand also recorded a considerable 17 percent increase in sales by delivering 98,200 automobiles—the highest number of sales in one month in the history of the company.

## Sales success

BMW Philippines Corp. contributed to this substantial growth by delivering 92 cars in September, for an astounding increase of 109 percent compared to the previous mark last year. With this sales success, BMW's year-to-date sales figures are up by 22 percent, thereby main-

taining its leadership in the luxury segment in the Philippines.

"Our results confirm that BMW is on a path of steady growth," said BMW Philippines Corp. president Dr. Joerg Breuer. "We are likewise optimistic regarding our sales in the fourth quarter of this year."

Dr. Breuer explained that the success of the BMW 3 Series, which continues to be the best-selling luxury sedan in the Philippines, was complemented by the entry of new models like the recently introduced X3 Sport Activity Vehicle. In addition, sales of every model in the wide BMW product range increased as well.

## Customer-oriented programs

Aside from the appeal of its products, BMW's outstanding sales performance

in the Philippines can also be attributed to the innovative customer-orientated programs it has introduced. BMW was the first to offer the 24-hour test drive, giving customers the select opportunity to experience firsthand the multi-award-winning 3 Series.

And as further confirmation of the low after-sales costs of its vehicles, BMW recently launched its Service Inclusive offer, which entitles 3 Series and 5 Series owners to comprehensive coverage of original parts and labor for scheduled and unscheduled services for 5 years or 60,000 kilometers. 3 Series owners can avail of free Service Inclusive as part of their purchase options, while 5 Series owners can register for Service Inclusive for only P30,000. Both offers are valid until the end of October.

## Bosch gets Automechanika Innovation Award 2004

BOSCH'S new-generation wheel alignment system was voted one of six outstanding innovations by the jury for the Automechanika innovation award.

The novel optical system was developed by Bosch with the support of BMW.

## 2 awards

Bosch will receive "Automechanika Innovation Award 2004" in the category "Repair & Automotive Services."

It will also be given an award for the "Universal Lambda Sensor" in the category "Parts & Components."

## The jury

The jury selecting the Automechanika innovation awards consists of scientists, technical journalists and representatives associations.

It assesses products nominated from 12 countries for their innovation content, user benefit, quality and environmental compatibility.

Only products that meet the strict requirements receive the "Innovation Automechanika Award."

The novel, touchless, optically operat-

ed New-Generation Wheel Alignment System takes readings accurately and quickly while the car is on the car lift or just driving by.

## Second award

Bosch's second awarded innovation, the Universal Lambda Sensor range accounts for more than 80 percent of the European market. It has the highest market coverage with only seven part numbers.

This is the fifth time that Bosch products will be presented with the Automechanika Innovation Award. At the last Automechanika in 2002, Bosch was winner in the product group "Autoaccessories" with the "Aerowin" wiper system.

With expected sales of approximately 40 billion Euros in 2004, Bosch is one of Germany's largest industrial enterprises with a significant international presence.

It set up operations in the Philippines in 1995 with distribution channels and product support and service centers nationwide.

## Mercedes-Benz combines automobiles and fashion

TECHNICAL perfection, quality standards and pioneering impact have made Mercedes-Benz one of the world's most innovative car brands for over a hundred years. Countless car legends have made the three-pronged star become the most famous symbol of any car brand, denoting status and achievement.

In the continuing effort to be part of upscale lifestyles, the German car company has embarked on yet another novel feat—combining the worlds of automobiles and fashion. For some years now, Mercedes-Benz has been the title sponsor for the most famous fashion weeks in New York, San Francisco, Aus-

tralia and Singapore.

## Patron of designers

Sharing the passion for design and timeless elegance, Mercedes-Benz has been a patron of established and aspiring designers, offering them a classy forum to showcase the latest trends. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week has become one of the most anticipated events on the international vogue scene.

The exciting interplay between made-in-Germany cars and fashions—Escada, Escada Sport, Betty Barclay, Laurel and Puma—was recently highlighted in the Philippines in the show titled "Awesome."

Living up to a reputation for ingenuity

and innovativeness, the Benz state-of-the-art showroom together with the industrial backdrop of the workshop at the Bonifacio Global City was turned into the staging area for the fashion ramp.

Organizers of the event said the unique backdrop was just one of the show's many surprises. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Show formed part of the kaleidoscope of events lined up for the "Germany ... It's more than you think!" celebration. Organized by Pairs and More in cooperation with the German Embassy and ABS-CBN, Studio 23, ANC, Cinema One, Lifestyle Network and MYX, October has been declared German Month.



NISSAN Frontier

## Analyzing the Frontier's DNA

WHILE A HUMAN body's most visible evidence of DNA is its skeleton, the Nissan Frontier's most visible evidence of its DNA can be found in its chassis.

The Frontier's chassis takes into account the collective mass of every part of a pickup and hold them together come rain, shine, pothole or speed bump without breaking down.

Designed as a closed-section ladder-type frame brace, the Frontier's DNA is made out of reinforced steel to withstand twisting during high-speed cornering, particularly at the frontmost and rear part of the frame.

The most obvious advantage of the Frontier's backbone material is its density. The thickness of the chassis' brace prevents the Frontier from bottoming out, or the tendency of a vehicle's middle portion to come in contact with the road, at speeds over

60 kilometers per hour.

Adding to the frame's strength are individually tuned rubber-chassis mounts placed throughout the brace, virtually eliminating road harshness at all chassis-mounting points.

Also, the Frontier's skeleton carries five crossmembers. Traditionally, most pickups have four crossmembers that straddle both longitudinal beams.

But with the Frontier, Nissan decided that an additional crossmember would be better for weight distribution, putting less stress on the frame due to the unsprung weight.

This part defines what a real pickup should be, the one part that can take the most abuse and ask for more without breaking or even bending. Given the Frontier's DNA, it is no wonder that it is the country's best-selling pickup truck for four years in a row.





A BIRD'S eye view of the new NLEX

## The P18-B expressway

IF YOU are driving north of Metro Manila this long holiday weekend, savor the low toll rates of the totally improved North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) while you can. When the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), a Lopez Group joint venture, takes over the NLEX on Nov. 30, the toll rates will jump by as much as 600 percent per kilometer for light vehicles.

Expect transportation operators and private motorists to protest when the MNTC starts charging P2.49 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles (cars, jeepneys, pickups and minivans), P6.23 per km for Class 2 (buses, vans and two-axle trucks) and P7.47 per km for Class 3 (cargo trucks and trailers with three or more axles.) For motorists traversing the entire 80-km stretch, that means shelling out almost P200 per trip.

Although MNTC says that the majority of NLEX users will pay only P75 per trip based on the average traveled distance of 35 kilometers, the fact remains that those exiting at Angeles, a frequented destination, will have to pay P145 per trip. MNTC president and CEO Jose "Ping" de Jesus points out that only 7 percent of NLEX motorists who travel up to the last exit (Sta. Ines, Pampanga) will pay the maximum P200 per trip.

### In exchange

Naturally, motorists want to know what they will get in exchange for their money. Forget all that stuff about accelerated economic development and increased tourism in Central and North Luzon since motorists in general are a self-centered lot. But promise them safer and more comfortable motoring, reduced vehicle operating costs and less time on the road because of smoother traffic flow, and they will agree to a higher toll rate.

The MNTC is spending P18 billion to transform the decrepit, 30-year-old, 84-km NLEX from Balintawak, Metro Manila to Sta. Ines into a world-class, state-of-the-art tollway. Is the first phase of its concession to rebuild, operate and maintain the NLEX for the next 30 years, MNTC resurfaced the entire stretch, built an additional 138 lane kilometers and expanded the road by adding new lanes.

The MNTC demolished the existing 91 toll booths and replaced them with 145 new ones, built and expanded four toll plazas (Balintawak, Bocaue, Dau and Tabang), erected four new interchanges (Marilao, Mexico, Angeles and Dau), widened 26 permanent exits and constructed a new flyover in Novaliches to speed up access to the tollway.

### Computerized

As a world-class tollway, the new NLEX is equipped with computerized toll collection systems, variable pictogram signs, closed circuit TV monitoring, reflectorized lane markings, median concrete barriers to prevent head-on collisions, emergency parking areas, radio broadcast for expressway users, roadway lighting and portable weighing scales. All the toll plazas are connected by underground fiber optic cable to the Operation and Maintenance Center in Balintawak that houses the Traffic Control Room.

Talk about safer motoring: The improved road pavement and more efficient traffic management should significantly reduce road accidents. Aside from traffic enforcers equipped with cameras, radars and speed monitoring devices patrolling the NLEX day and night, 14 strategically positioned cameras enable MNTC staff in the control room to monitor traffic 24/7 and to dispatch emergency response teams (tow trucks, ambulances or even a helicopter) when the need arises. Motorists can also go to any of the emergency phone boxes located every one kilometer from Balintawak to Burok, Bulacan.

Talk about comfortable motoring: The resurfacing of the entire 84-km stretch and the construction of new lanes have resulted in a smooth, seamless, pothole-free and wider expressway. Instead of the bone-jarring ride that motorists used to endure, traversing the NLEX is now such a soothing experience that you tend to take a nap if you are a passenger and wake up later at your destination rested and refreshed.

### Reduced VOC

Talk about reduced vehicle operating costs (VOC): A study done by the University of the Philippines Planning and Development Research Foundation indicated that running costs including fuel consumption are reduced because of the smooth pavement and faster traffic flow on the new NLEX. Thus the depreciation of the vehicle and the effects of wear and tear are also lessened.

The UP study showed that Class 1 vehicles can expect VOC savings of P0.94 per km or P75.20 if you travel the entire 80-km distance. A Class 2 vehicle saves P7.44 per km in VOC on the renovated NLEX, or a whopping P595.20 if it travels from end to end. Similarly, Class 3 vehicles would save P5.04 per km in VOC, or a total of P401.60. Bottom line, the VOC savings will outweigh the higher toll rates, Ping de Jesus claims.

### ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

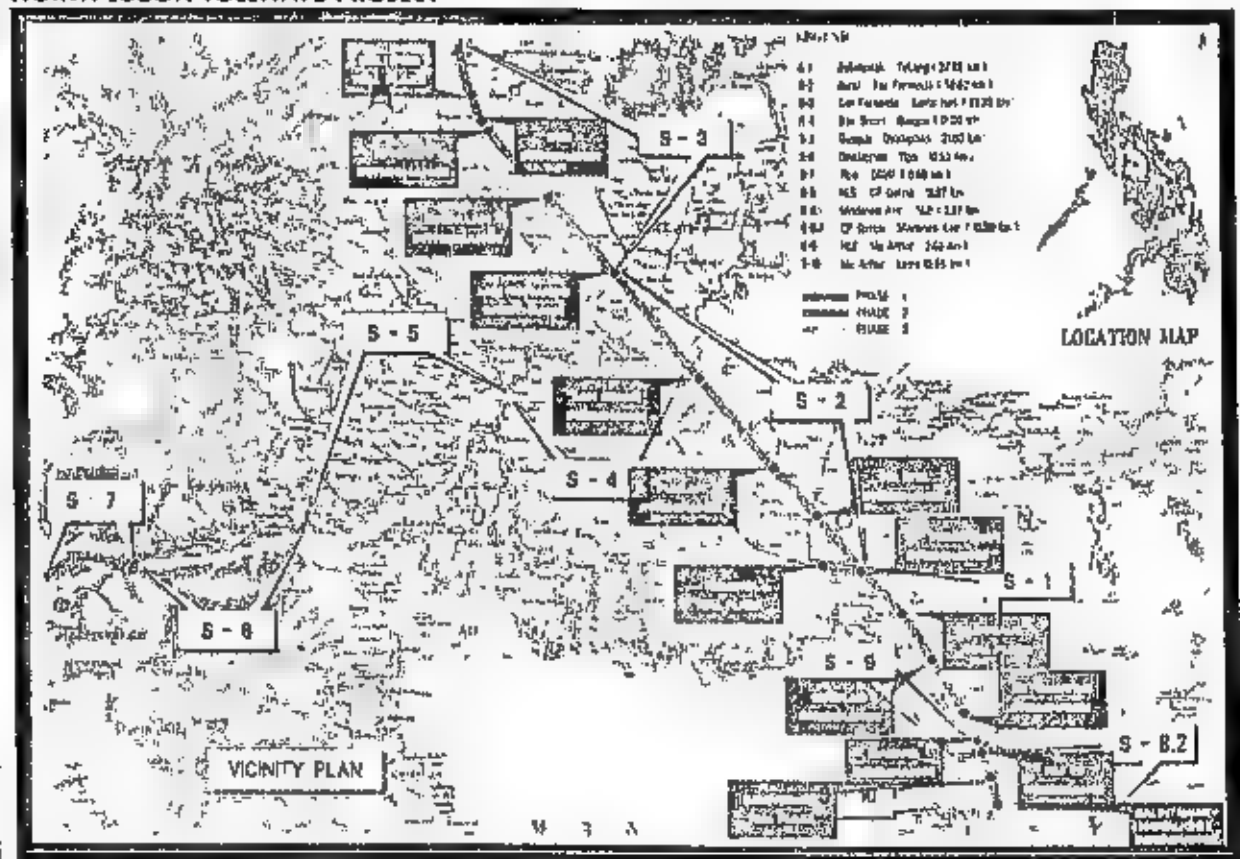


Talk about reduced travel time: De Jesus asserts that the improvement and expansion of the NLEX cuts travel time for the whole 84-km stretch to one hour from the previous minimum two hours. With improved traffic conditions, average speed will increase to 80 km/hr from the 60 km/hr of old.

The MNTC needs the Toll Regulatory Board's approval to collect the toll rates it needs to cover operating and maintenance costs, get a fair return on its P18-billion investment and repay the loans it incurred to finance the modernization of the NLEX. Now, don't you think that the new toll rates are justified?

**TOYOTA ENTERS GOTYR** After fielding the Altis in the first testfest for the Car of the Year Award, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. will provide test units of the Camry, Previa and RAV4 in subsequent testfests. It also promised full participation in next year's Coty (Car of the Year Philippines) when it shall have more time to prepare a wider range of models. In last weekend's testfest with subcompact cars and minivans, the 1100 cc Kia Picanto attracted attention because it was the newest model there. The

### NORTH LUZON TOLLWAYS PROJECT



Car Awards Group takes a break this weekend to observe All Souls' Day.

**TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER:** The main cause of divorce is marriage.

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

**THE NLEX road map** showing new toll plazas and interchanges

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2311 Series of 2004.





#### R.P. HAS CAR OF THE YEAR

Seventeen of the 46 motoring writers and other motoring-related media personalities comprising the Car of the Year-Philippines (Coty-Philippines) in a recent oath taking with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza. Now on its third of the six weekend testing and evaluating of vehicles via instrumented and subjective evaluation of the 2004 vehicle models in the country, Coty-

Philippines hopes to improve the skills of motoring journalists in the country, set new benchmarks for the domestic auto industry in terms of design, innovation, safety and handling. With full backing of the Automobile Association of the Philippines, it will announce the Car of the Year 2004 at a glittering awards ceremony in February 2005. Finally, the Philippines has Car of the Year.

## Automotive personnel shine in Auto Review safety run

AS IF racing for the best time was as important to them as leading sales charts, employees of car manufacturing, oil and other automotive-related companies took their fastest strides to the finish line in the 1st Auto Review 10K Run for Road Safety and Courtesy held last Sunday at the CCP Complex in front of Star City.

Toyota, Ford, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Mazda, Asahi Glass and Total shone the brightest as they emerged among the top 10 finishers in the men and women categories of the 5K Sponsors Run with the participation of other companies. These are Caltex, Accel Sports Gear, Chevrolet, Honda Cars Phils., Nissan, Universal Motors Corp., Volvo, Red Bull, Carryboy, Manila Broadcasting Co., Manila Bulletin, Today and NBN4.

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) garnered a special award for the biggest automotive delegation.

#### Top 10

Toyota's Joel Alberto (22:58), Al Amoranto (22:59), Reynan Ilorca (23:55) and Raymond Goshi (24:01) registered a strong 1-2-3-4 finishing kick in the men's class with Noel Cerdana of Asahi Glass Philippines checking in with 25:04 for fifth place while Mazda's Joe Mayuga occupied sixth place in 25:10.

Rounding up the rest of the top 10 list in the 5K Sponsors Run are: 7th and 8th placers—Toyota's Greg Falcon (25:35) and Mark Marcelo (26:21); 9th—Ford's John Vital (26:41) and 10th Toyota's Jimmy Hembra (27:19).

The women's side saw Areza Abundo completing a double by Toyota with her 23:11 for first place. Ford's Shyrel Ferre, the company's first lady forklift operator, finished second with a time of 30:37. Mitsubishi's Rose de la Cruz was third in 35:20.

Completing the ladies' top 10 5K Sponsors cast are: 4th—Total's Mariz Dominguez (37:17); 5th—Toyota's Vanessa de los Santos (39:00); 6th—Ford's Marlen Morales (43:33); 7th and 8th—Mazda's Cherylynn Bulaong (43:34) and Haydee Maate (43:35); 9th and 10th—Isuzu's Lea Punongbayan (45:21) and Timmy Naval (45:27).

The main 10K-distance run is endorsed by the Department of Education, the Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Sports Commission, Automobile Association Philippines, Car Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, Adz on Wheels and supported by dzSR Sports Radio, K-Lite 103.5, dzRH, Love Radio 90.7, Yes! FM and Blazin' 105.9 FM.

#### Other winners

Former national team mainstay Bernardo Desamto Jr. and Cristabe, Martes, 2001 Southeast Asian Games marathon champion in Malaysia, copped first place with their 31:18 and 36:44 clockings, respectively.

Meantime, Rolando Piamonte (15:48) and Hazel Madamba (18:47) were proclaimed the fastest runners in the 5K Open while Richard Delfin (15:59) and Mary Grace Cruz (16:16), both 12-years old, captured the top spots in the 3K race.

Asahi glass trophies were awarded to all the top 10 finishers of the 4 race categories with additional cash prizes given to the top three placers. The 10K male and female champions also received a Carryboy mountain bike each.

#### Special guest

No less than World Health Organization representative to the Philippines Dr. Jean Marc Olive was the special guest during the awarding ceremonies. In his brief address, Dr. Olive congratulated the advocacy effort undertaken by Auto Review to promote road safety and the value of courtesy among the motoring public. He cited the Philippines as ranked seventh in the top 10 list of Asian countries that register the highest mortality rate due to road accidents.

"The Philippines needs more programs that advocate road safety for mass awareness. And this Auto Review Run is one such effort," said Dr. Olive who spearheaded World Health Day activities that adopted the slogan "Road Safety is No Accident" last April.

#### Side events

Sunday's run also highlighted other side events such as the well-received "Pera O Gasolina" road safety quiz sponsored by Total (Phil) Corp. and raffle of premium items from event sponsors, a road safety slogan-writing contest, and a car display on the latest models—Isuzu D-Max, Ford Lynx, Nissan Frontier—and the Red Bull Honda Civic converted sports racing car driven by multi-titled racer Mike Anton at the Subic International Raceway.

The staging of the advocacy run marked Auto Review's 10th year of service to the motoring public through the one-hour show hosted by veteran sportscaster and motoring journalist Ron de los Reyes and aired every Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. over the National Broadcasting Network.

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ISUZU N-SERIES

## Five in a row for Isuzu; Tarlac's tricycles

MY warm applause to Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC), the country's logistics specialist, for maintaining its dominance in the local truck sales for an amazing five consecutive years.

Take a bow, Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales and Timmy Naval.

Year-to-date figures released by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMA) showed Isuzu's light-trucks, the N-Series line or popularly known as the Elf, too tough a contender to beat for the No. 1 spot. The Elf topped the charts with a record of 514 units against the total industry light-truck sales of 846. That's a whopping 61 percent market share.

The N-Series trucks are known as tough, reliable and versatile logistics partner—a must for every start-up or expanding business. In addition, they have what it takes for a world-class performance. Owners can count on the N-Series, which is Euro 1 compliant resulting to clean-burning power, plus elegant styling and superb driving comfort. Low emission and fuel-efficient engines add versatility to these workhorses.

As Art Balmadrid loves to say, "And because it is powered by Isuzu's legendary diesel engine, no businessman

can ever go wrong by choosing it as a long-term business partner."

Not to be outdone, Isuzu's F-Series, commonly known as the Isuzu Forward, remained a consistent top seller with a year-to-date 76 percent share of the total industry medium-truck sales.

Incidentally, Isuzu Motors Ltd. (IML) announced that for three consecutive years, Isuzu dominated all other manufacturers in the output of 6.1-16 ton medium-duty trucks within a single country—producing 65,468 vehicles in Japan and surpassing the nearest runner-up by more than 23,000 units.

Also, IML manufactured 86,354 trucks with gross vehicle masses (GVMs) of at least 6.1 tons (14,000 lb) in 2003, making the company the world's No. 1 producer of medium- and heavy-duty trucks in a single country.

Said Art Balmadrid, who is IPC vice president for Corporate Business Division: "Isuzu aims to be the consistent market leader in the truck category—with our dependable, hardworking and environment-friendly trucks."

Last August, Isuzu presented the grandest and biggest truck showcase ever staged in the country—the Isuzu Truck Attack.

Art added that with the positive re-

### FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

sponse of the market, Isuzu expects to perform even better with exciting new offerings that will hit the market in the months to come.

**TROOPER WINNER.** Meanwhile, congratulations to Juliet Sarino, who won a 2005 Isuzu Trooper as her prize for buying an Isuzu Crosswind recently at the Isuzu dealership in Biñan, Laguna. Sarino is from 25 Ford St., Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. What a promo, indeed, from Isuzu. The Trooper, being Isuzu's premium SUV, is almost double the prize of the Crosswind. As usual, Isuzu's 1-2 punch, IPC president Yoshifumi Komura and EVP Kazuhiko Sho awarded the symbolic key of the Trooper to Sarino.

Some of the worst tricycle drivers you will find when you travel North are

those in Capas, Tarlac, and Tarlac City.

There is a huge billboard by the bridge entering Capas coming from Manila that reads: "Capas, Paspas sa Kalinisan!" It should have also included this: "Capas, Paspas Ang Mga Traysikel!"

Most of the tricycle drivers in Capas are so undisciplined they race like hell, in the middle of the highway, courting fatal disaster by the minute.

The billboard by the bridge has the face of the town mayor, Reynaldo Catacutan, whose turf I guess has more tricycles than persons I have no beef with tricycles, it's those manning them with recklessness that I take issue with. Many of them—there will always be exceptions, you know—disregard traffic laws indiscriminately. Why, because law enforcers themselves tolerate them.

Aren't tricycles banned in highways in the first place?

How many fatal accidents have happened in our highways involving tricycles, not to mention the kuligligs? The kuliglig is used primarily to till our rice fields. Like tricycles, they are also a menace to society. You see them all traversing the highways leading to Ilocos and Cagayan Valley.

In Capas, tricycles, like kuligligs, love to occupy even the center lanes of the highway when they could travel trouble-free on the shoulder, which are paved anyway. Even if you honk your horns at them, they never budge. They are deaf as a convent wall. And worst, traffic enforcers there tolerate law-breaking tricycle drivers in wild abandon.

What happens in Capas also happens almost daily in Tarlac City, where tricycles are all over, outnumbering four-wheeled vehicles by almost 10 to 2!

I know, I go to Pangasinan almost weekly now. After a trouble-free, oh-so-smooth ride at the North Luzon Expressway, I grit my teeth each time I approach the town of Capas because of those undisciplined tricycle drivers—not to mention the traffic enforcers allowing such chaos to happen right under their noses. And after Capas, it's Tarlac City.

Help!

**QUOTE ME.** When traveling long distance, it is always best to check your tires and your tire gauge before leaving.

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## MOTORING

# 'You have to get out there and try it on the road'

By Tessa R. Salazar

**W**HO wouldn't want to test a car before buying it? And why wouldn't manufacturers allow their cars to be test-driven by potential owners if this meant an increased chance of selling the car?

The international automotive business community has capitalized on test-drives to increase actual sales. Studies of test-drive promotions in other countries showed that car dealers have witnessed an increase in customer traffic by 26 percent coming in the showroom daily to test-drive new vehicles offered.

This increased interaction between car and potential owner is seen to have increased sales 6.2 percent.

## Spelling the difference

Terence Hockenhill, international sales and negotiation consultant project director of the American Management Association, recently spoke at the joint Nissan and Universal Motors Corp. Test Drive campaign launch. In his talk, he

quoted this figure to stress that test drives could actually spell the difference in car promotions.

Hockenhill is the chief designer for the Nissan test-drive project in the Philippines.

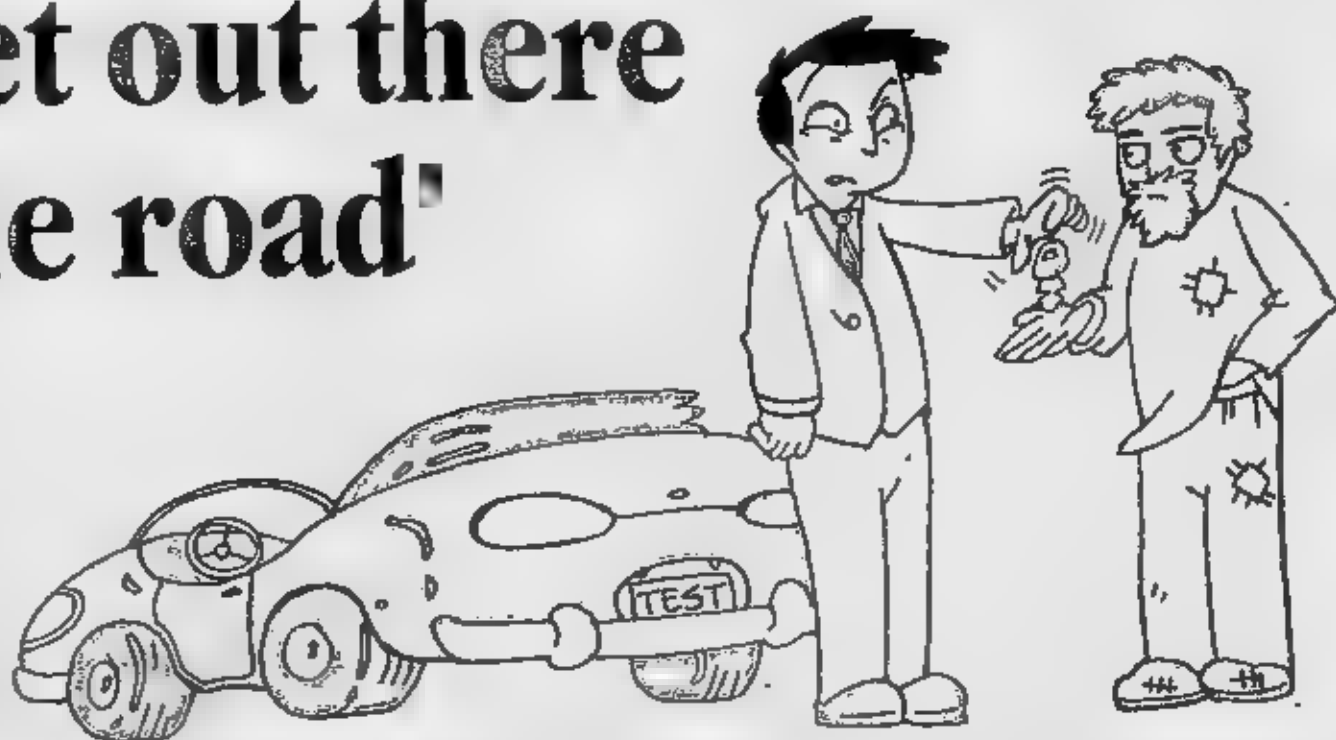
He realizes he has his work cut out for him here, though. Hockenhill said he observed test drive in the Philippines would just be an "afterthought" for some car assemblers. He further noted that some car dealers even went to the extreme—not allowing their test units to pile up mileage on the odometer reading.

If the car is meant as a test unit, then dealers might as well use it to satisfy the customer's curiosity, Hockenhill said.

## Class biases

The Filipino society's class biases also surface at the showrooms. Hockenhill remarks of the sales staff's predilection for judging walk-ins by the way they look when they come into the showrooms. "They judge customers by their appearance, by what they are wearing," he said.

That is about to change, however, once Hockenhill's test-drive designs are practiced. "With the test-drive cam-



paign, irrespective of what the person looks like, the car dealer's objective is to get as many people an opportunity to test drive as possible."

He added that prejudging customers would not help get as many people aware of the product as possible. Who knows, he said, the person in shorts and T-shirt could be a sweet-talking salesman with a very rich friend on the lookout for a car.

The lack of enthusiasm of salespersons on the showroom could also get in the way of the customer reaching for his checkbook, Hockenhill noted. There was one time when a salesperson didn't

even bother to explain features that could have been otherwise adequately demonstrated.

## Pilot runs

Nissan Motor Philippines made several pilot runs of the global Nissan Test Drive campaign at Nissan Westgate in Alabang and the Nissan Mantrade in Manila since Oct. 4. The campaign continues in all Metro Manila dealers and selected dealers in the provinces.

The Nissan Test Drive campaign first kicked off in Japan where the feedback among Nissan car buyers was positive. It will soon be launched in Europe and in

parts of Asia. In Malaysia, the NTD started Sept. 22, and Taiwan launched its own on Oct. 23.

"After buying a home, purchasing a car is the most important for a Filipino family," said Hockenhill.

And with more cars being introduced on a more frequent basis, Hockenhill observed the parallel increase of brand awareness and choices among Filipino car buyers. According to Hockenhill, the competition is not all about just one or two manufacturers anymore. The bottomline may rest on how welcoming the dealers are to an eager but shy Juan de la Cruz.

## Audi A4 Quattro: High performance with unlimited roadworthiness

THE AUDI A4 quattro is the sporty and top-of-the-line model in the A4 range. This car is outstanding for its unique combination of unmistakable style and sporting exclusivity, of individuality and versatility. A commanding performance adds to the unlimited roadworthiness of the Audi A4 quattro.

It is the only car in its class to have quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system. It can therefore convert its engine output into propulsive power most efficiently at all times and enter a new dimension of superiority. This enables the performance potential to be translated into reliable traction and driving enjoyment whatever the situation.

## Safety and comfort

This system provides high levels of active safety, and dependable traction on virtually all surfaces as well as excellent road holding, even in cross wind. It is superior to manual all-wheel-drive systems because of this "permanent safety advantage."

The 6-speed transmission provides superlative form of driving comfort in line with quattro permanent four-wheel drive. The 6-speed gearbox has a 30 percent greater spread of gears than the five-speed version. The driver benefits from enormous agility and driving enjoyment with acceleration that is as harmonious as it is dynamic, without any interruption in the power flow.

With its low unsprung mass and self-tracking trapezoidal-link rear suspension, the lightweight aluminum chassis ensures outstanding

driving dynamics. Good steering precision and exact handling complement the superior ride comfort of the Audi A4.

## Powerful engine

A powerful yet economical gasoline engine provides the basis for excellent performance figures. The Audi A4 1.8 T demonstrates just how much power and refinement a modern turbo engine can have.

The 200 bhp version with 6-speed sports transmission reaches a top speed of 240 km/h and this power contributes as much to driving pleasure with its brisk acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h in approximately 7.3 seconds.

Sports appeal and individuality are also the characteristic features of the exclusive interior equipment of the Audi A4 quattro with its power sports seats, BOSE sound system and integrated in-dash 6-disc CD changer and 3-spoke sports steering

wheel in leather.

## Bold exterior

The strikingly bold exterior warrants nothing but undivided attention. The optional equipment package consists of high-quality, carefully matched components which have been specially developed such as the 18-inch cast aluminum wheels with its RS4 design wheels and the full body kit that includes the tailgate spoiler and the front, rear and side skirts.

The A4 quattro is the only car in its class equipped with Xenon headlights.

Indeed, there's something untamed inside the "Best Car in Its Class for 2004" according to the auto world sport, Germany. Feel the awesome power of the A4 quattro and satisfy your driving passion.

Audi is available through its exclusive distributor, Auto Prominence Corp. with its showroom address at 2326 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.



AUDI A4 Quattro



MAZDA Tribute

## Own a Mazda Tribute, get 2 monthly payments free

THE ONLY SUV with the soul of a sports car is now within reach with only 20 percent down payment! Until Oct. 31, you can take home a Mazda Tribute 3.0 Liter with only 20 percent down payment on SRP 1,180,000 and your first two payments will be free for both 36-month and 48-month installment plans.

Made possible by Mazda Credit financing, this special deal makes owning the Mazda Tribute 3.0 liter easy for those who seek the soul of a sports car in an SUV.

The Mazda Tribute offers outstanding performance and comfort, as well as passenger-car-like agility and maneuverability. Moreover, you can experience impressive on-road performance, sure-footed handling and superb ride comfort packaged in a muscular and athletic design.

## True embodiment

The Mazda Tribute is a true embodiment of the Mazda brand's DNA-distinctive design, exceptional functionality, outstanding aerodynamics and responsive handling and performance.

Its class-leading 3.0-liter V6 engine further contributes to the mix, designed to give it un-

compromising power, acceleration and fuel efficiency, enabling drivers to truly experience the thrill of a sports car in an SUV.

The sophisticated and insightful design of this SUV incorporates a combination of refined, distinctive styling and a bold and athletic appearance realized within sensible dimensions.

## Stylish, exuberant

It is available in steel silver, infinity black, palladium white and mercury gold. Inside, it is stylish and exuberant with passenger-car refinement in its abundant cabin space, outstanding visibility and unmatched passenger and luggage-carrying flexibility.

The vehicle's safety features are just as outstanding with Dual SRS Airbags, side-impact door beams, Engine Immobilizer and antilock braking system, with Mazda's revolutionary Electronic Brake-Force Distribution that varies the amount of front and rear braking force depending on vehicle load.

For more information, visit Mazda showrooms located in Alabang, Greenhills and Quezon Avenue. Promo lasts until Oct. 31 only.

## General Motors redefines luxury with the Chevy Optra 1.8L

FOR YUPPIES who are well on their way to reaching their career goals, a comfortable life filled with only the finest things is a worthy reward. Designer wardrobes, trendy gadgets and luxury cruises are only some of the things that are naturally desired as they serve as status symbols that reflect professional and personal successes.

Riding in the lap of luxury, literally, aboard an exquisite car is something every single career-oriented yuppie probably dreams of. After a hard day's work, hopping into a car that offers superb comfort and elegance is a treat: an indulgence that closes a taxing day and wonderfully starts an evening of fun and relaxation.

## With luxurious features

Fortunately, cars that have luxurious features are now within reach of these driving yuppies. The Chevrolet Optra 1.8L, recently introduced by General Motors Automobiles Philippines to the local market, is one such car that offers the best of both worlds—luxury and utility.

The Optra 1.8L is the luxurious edition of the best-selling mid-sized sedan Chevrolet Optra 1.6L, which was introduced last year. It is a functional car that fits the active lifestyle of upwardly mobile professionals and now enhanced with features that can give luxury cars a tough competition.

GMPh aims to redefine luxury with the Optra 1.8L. The car combines quality, luxury and value for money and simply represents the idea that the best things in life shouldn't cost an arm and a leg.

## Affordable luxuries

"When people think of luxury, it always comes with a price as in a lot of money," says Nicky Mariano, marketing director of GMPh. "But luxury must not be made exclusive to those who are extremely rich. Anyone who's reached his goals, in one



ENJOY the ultimate entertainment experience provided by a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer and six speakers.

way or another, is entitled to luxury, and there are affordable luxuries," he adds.

Mariano said the Optra 1.8L was created to please the self-assured, smart individual who takes his automotive investments seriously. "At an introductory price of P799,000, the Optra 1.8L fits the young executives who are on their way to the top of the corporate ladder."

Monica, a 29-year-old financial management consultant who has recently acquired a black sapphire Optra 1.8L as gift to herself when she got promoted at work said she chose the car because it embodies "practical luxury." "When people see your car, they automatically gauge you as a person—how successful you are, what kind of lifestyle you lead, and what kind of taste you have," she says. "The Optra 1.8L has a certain kind of style that boosts my self-confidence."

The Optra 1.8L exudes a quiet sophis-

tication that can only come from the expertise of Pininfarina, the famed Italian design house that has fashioned almost all Ferrari models. The car has alluring lines and super detailing; a see-through jewel-effect 4-element headlamps; crystal effect fog lamps and laminated windshield with solar tinted visor that creates that posh but unassuming personality.

Monica discloses that it's the understated sophistication of the Optra 1.8L that she was first attracted to. "It has a quiet elegance and it's perfect for a woman my age, status and resources. I also like it because it's roomy," she adds.

Underneath its elegant exterior, the Optra 1.8L boasts of power and performance. It has British-tuned suspension, and is loaded with the 1.8L 4-cylinder powerhouse that delivers 121 hp at 5,800 rpm and 165 N-m torque at 4,000 rpm. It guarantees a smooth, gliding ride as special care has been taken to reduce vibration with special engine mounts.

Inside the car, the seats are upholstered in the finest leather and the cabin panel is wood-finished offering lavish comfort and a subtle polished flair. Through the Total Noise Reduction System technology that bloc-

off external noise, the passenger is ensconced in a quiet, snug cocoon perfect while enjoying the ultimate entertainment experience provided by a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer and six speakers.

## Reliable utilitarian car

Apart from looking and feeling great, the Optra 1.8L is a reliable utilitarian car. It has substantial passenger and storage space that are signature Chevrolet characteristics, and first-rate safety features that include front-ventilated discs, rear solid discs, four-channel, four-sensor antilock brakes (ABS), and dual-stage airbags. That means the Optra 1.8L is indeed versatile and can be taken for daily drives to work, chic evening parties, or rugged weekend getaways.

The Optra 1.8L is available in exquisite colors of black sapphire, steel silver, sandalwood and shanghai red.

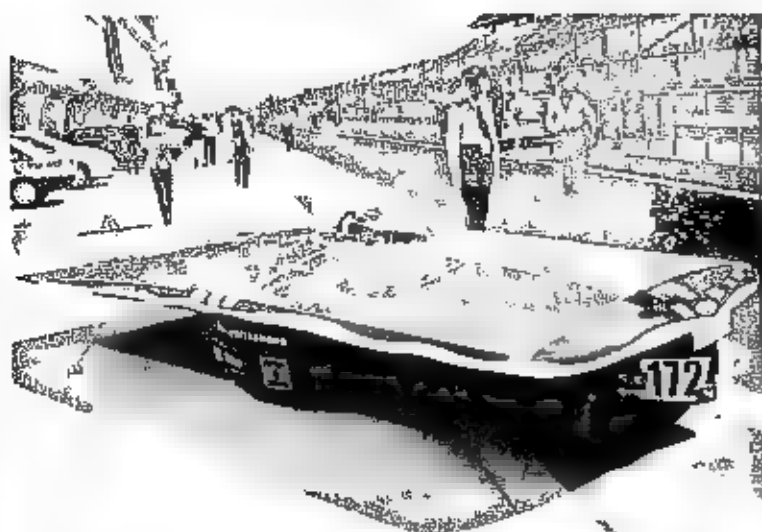
SIDE and back view of OPTRA 1.8L



OPTRA 1.8L: understated sophistication







AN EXCLUSIVE entrant, the famous Aurora 101 solar car of Australia uses no fuel and produces no emissions.



WITH A GROWING population of vehicles, China now realizes the need to find clean and renewable sources of energy.



ONE of the electric bus entries that is now plying Beijing streets.

## 2004 CHALLENGE BIBENDUM

# China tests the alternative energy path

Text and photos  
by Charles E. Buban

(First of two parts)

THE ALL-NEW Shanghai International Circuit in China, which played host to its first Formula One Grand Prix last Sept. 26, entertained a very different field of competitors a few weeks after—zooming around its long straight and tight hairpins at a blistering... 70 kilometers per hour!

Although it is not the kind of competition one usually associates with a venue like this, the annually held Challenge Bibendum nevertheless deserves no less than the maximum exposure for its noble goal: provide the world with impartial information on the latest technological advances in the field of environment-friendly vehicles.

Said René Zingraff, one of the two managing partners of Michelin Group, the event's organizer: "This event does not set out to provide solutions, but to highlight the most significant advances. It helps understand via demonstrations, what the different technological fields are and how they fit into the global picture."

And for Zingraff, choosing China as the venue for this year's Challenge Bibendum (the event was already held thrice in Europe and twice in the United States) seemed appropriate since the country is in a stage of realizing the importance of developing clean cars.

### Tremendous interest

Compared with much of the rest of the world, China is just beginning to experience an automotive industry boom.

It began in 2000 when China produced and sold over 2 million vehicles, then the figure grew to 2.37 million in

2001, over 3 million in 2002 and over 4 million in 2003, among which private cars were more than 70 percent.

Today, the country is now regarded the world's third largest automaker (after the US and Japan) and yet, China has decided to push to develop alternative fuels.

"China has shown tremendous interest. It has in fact, participated in last year's staging in California to realize the impact of a clean automotive industry," said Zingraff. "It was not surprising that the Chinese government has thrown its full support to bring Challenge Bibendum to their country this year," he added.

### No stranger

China is no stranger to the dark side of its love affair with the car—dependence on imported oil, jam-packed roads, cities awash in smog.

According to Dr. Gang Wan, acting president of Tongji University in Shanghai and member of Challenge Bibendum International technical committee, China is expected to experience a growing population of 8 million every year over the next 15 years.

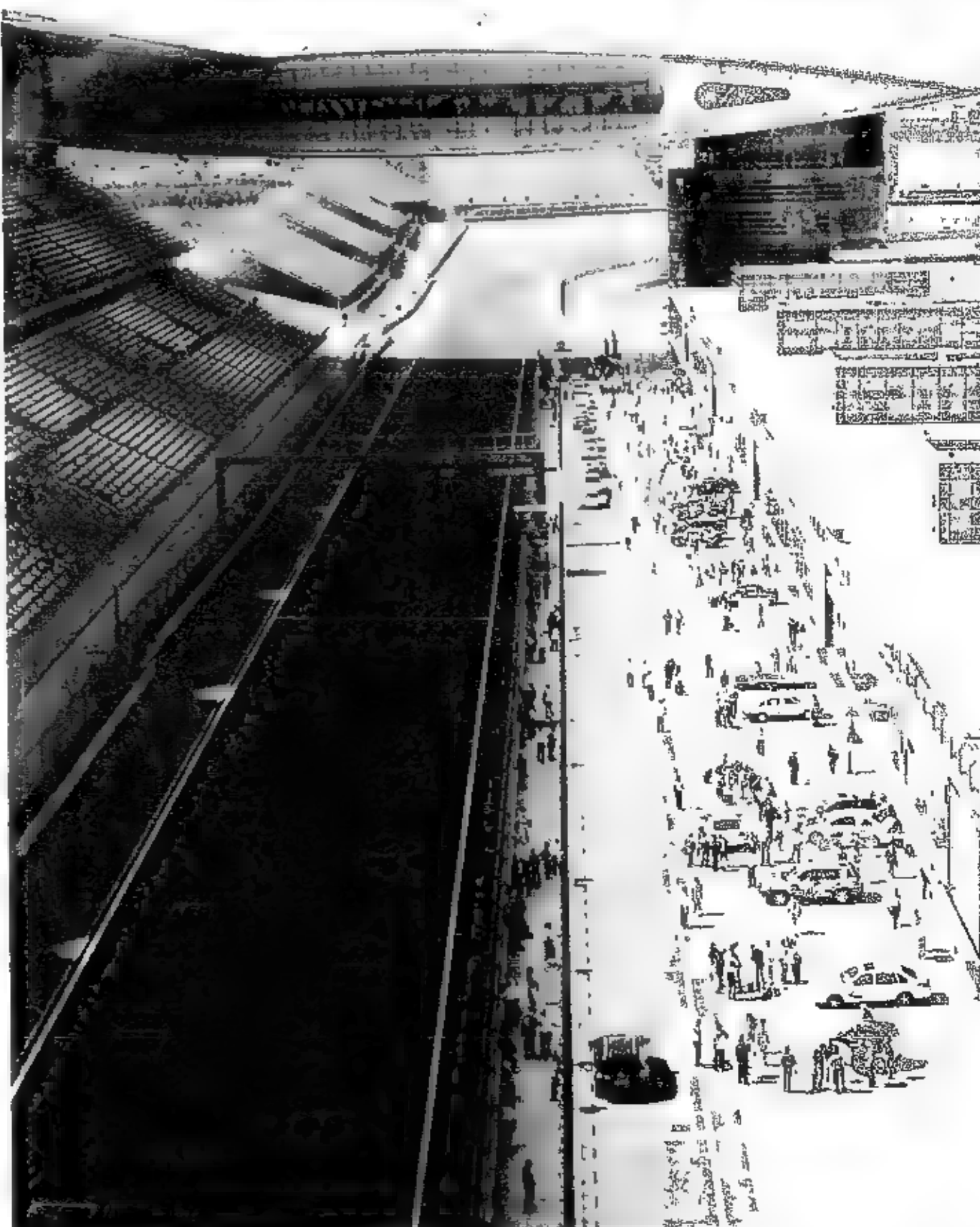
To create job opportunities for this new population, China has to achieve an annual 6 percent GDP growth until 2020.

### 12 percent growth

"To accomplish the aim, China's automotive industry will need to achieve a yearly growth rate of 12 percent. In that sense, the country is expected to have 130 million vehicles by 2020, which will lead to an oil consumption of 250 million tons. That amount accounts for 60 percent of China's total oil demand," Wan revealed.

He added that China will need over 400 million tons of crude oil in 2020.

Said Wan: "However, only up to 170 million tons can be produced domesti-



THE NEWLY opened Shanghai International Circuit provides a fitting venue for the world's No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

cally. Therefore, finding new sources of energy, particularly renewable energy, is crucial. On the other hand, updating of the current available technology is also another good approach. In Europe, most of the vehicles are driven by clean diesel, which has less impact on the environment. China can learn from Europe in this sense."

### Good opportunity

Wan believes that the holding of the sixth Challenge Bibendum event in Shanghai is definitely a good opportunity for China to learn from other countries spearheading in the development of clean auto sector.

He observed that while the fast development in the China's automotive industry will contribute to its economy and improve people's lives, it may also cause a dramatic increase in oil consumption and increased negative effects

in the environment.

"It was only recently that China established and accepted the view that a vehicle is not only an industrial product but also a common commodity which is related to the daily life of the public," Wan said.

Indeed, the cutting edge technologies that the 2004 Challenge Bibendum brought may provide China with many good examples as this country tries to develop its own technology.

### No. 1 event

Just five years after it was first launched, the Challenge Bibendum is now internationally recognized as the No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

The contest between the different energy sources takes place within the framework of a friendly, but perfectly defined competition.

"The vehicles are evaluated in real driving conditions, using precisely defined criteria (choice of performances related to the environment and overall vehicle safety)," explained Grace Chee of Michelin Asia Pacific/Michelin Asia.

This year, 74 vehicles competed in the race (out of the 150 vehicles presented) with more than 50 percent running on electricity (battery- or fuel cell-powered) while a significant number competed with internal combustion engines that uses biofuel.

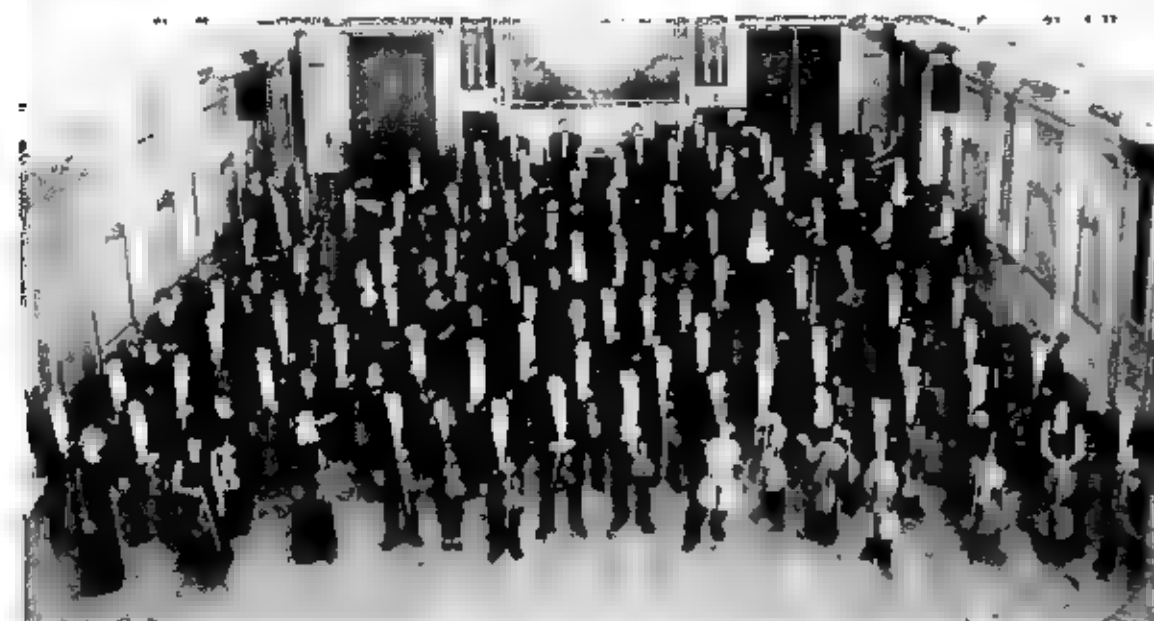
China was strongly represented with 43 vehicles, including 15 buses.

The bus entries were included since Beijing announced that starting this year, the capital city will implement the commercial demonstration of solely electric bus on most of its 121 bus lines in keeping with its "Green Olympic Games" theme (Beijing was chosen to host the 2008 Olympic Games).



EUROPE'S PRIDE: They all use diesel with some environment-friendly modifications.

## Toyota Classics at Teatro Aguinaldo



THE BRNO Philharmonic Orchestra

From page C8

came principal cellist of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra with illustrious Dutch conductor Edo de Waart. He participated in various southeast Asian art festivals both as soloist and recitalist.

Lucas embarked on a concert tour of China with the PPO String Quartet in 1987. He pursued postgraduate cello and conducting studies in Germany as DAAD fellow. His recording of Bruch's Kol Nidre drew rave reviews and was recently released on CD. Another CD of Romances for the Cello by Filipino Composers is due for release in July.

The 2004 Toyota Classics is earmarked for the benefit of the Pondo ng Pinoy Community

Foundation Inc. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, D.D., heads the project, launched last June.

The organization aims to fulfill the evangelical mission of the Church to bring the fullness of life to the less fortunate in the Philippines. This noble mission is done by encouraging families to save 25 centavos a day for future use.

Visit the Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Vista Mall, Greenhills). Tickets are also available on the Ticketworld website found at [www.ticketworld.com.ph](http://www.ticketworld.com.ph). Call 891-5610 for inquiry or reservation.



LUCAS







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Inquirer Life name/city/message to  
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso  
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

# Frightfest!

Greetings, reveler.

Thank you for picking up this week's

2bU!—your guide to this scary season.

If you're planning to celebrate Halloween with your friends, have:

- Creepy but yummy recipes for your Halloween party
- Urban legends and campus ghost stories you can retell to spook your friends out
- Terrifying faces and even more terrifying people to jumpstart your conversations
- Gorgeous costumes guaranteed to make you a standout.

If you'd rather stay at home, we have:

- Spine-tingling books you can curl up with
- Entertaining stories on astrology and a well-loved horoscope writer.

If Halloween isn't your thing, we have:

- A flashback of Sunday's VIP event
- PAWS, celebrities and the animals they love.

Enjoy!

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### HAIR TRANSPLANT



**SYEMPRE** sa mga patay, pero sa mga buhay din.—Tutay, 15



**THE CRUEL** world out there.—Raden, 14



**YAKOT** ako sa ipis.—Sherry Yu, 20, has roach-killing chalk

## 2BU! SURVEY

# What scares you the most?



**I'M** afraid of manananggal and lions and headless ghosts. But I am very afraid of my father, in a good way ha!—Jasmine Bautista, 19, claims to be a daddy's girl



**FAILURE.** I don't want to fail in anything. I am also afraid of hurting other people. And the future, since I have no idea what it will bring me.—Marie Jean Riño, 21

Text and photos by  
Nino Mark M. Sablan  
2bU! Correspondent

**I**T'S spook season once again. When Goths become ordinary faces in the crowd, freaks are happier than ever and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" movies grace our television screens.

Headless ghosts and crawling corpses in slow mo may take center stage this time of year, but they're not the only ones giving people out there a scare. Check the answers below and see for yourself.

I'm most scared of creepy noise, quiet and spacious places plus the dark. Arjuna Estrellado, 20

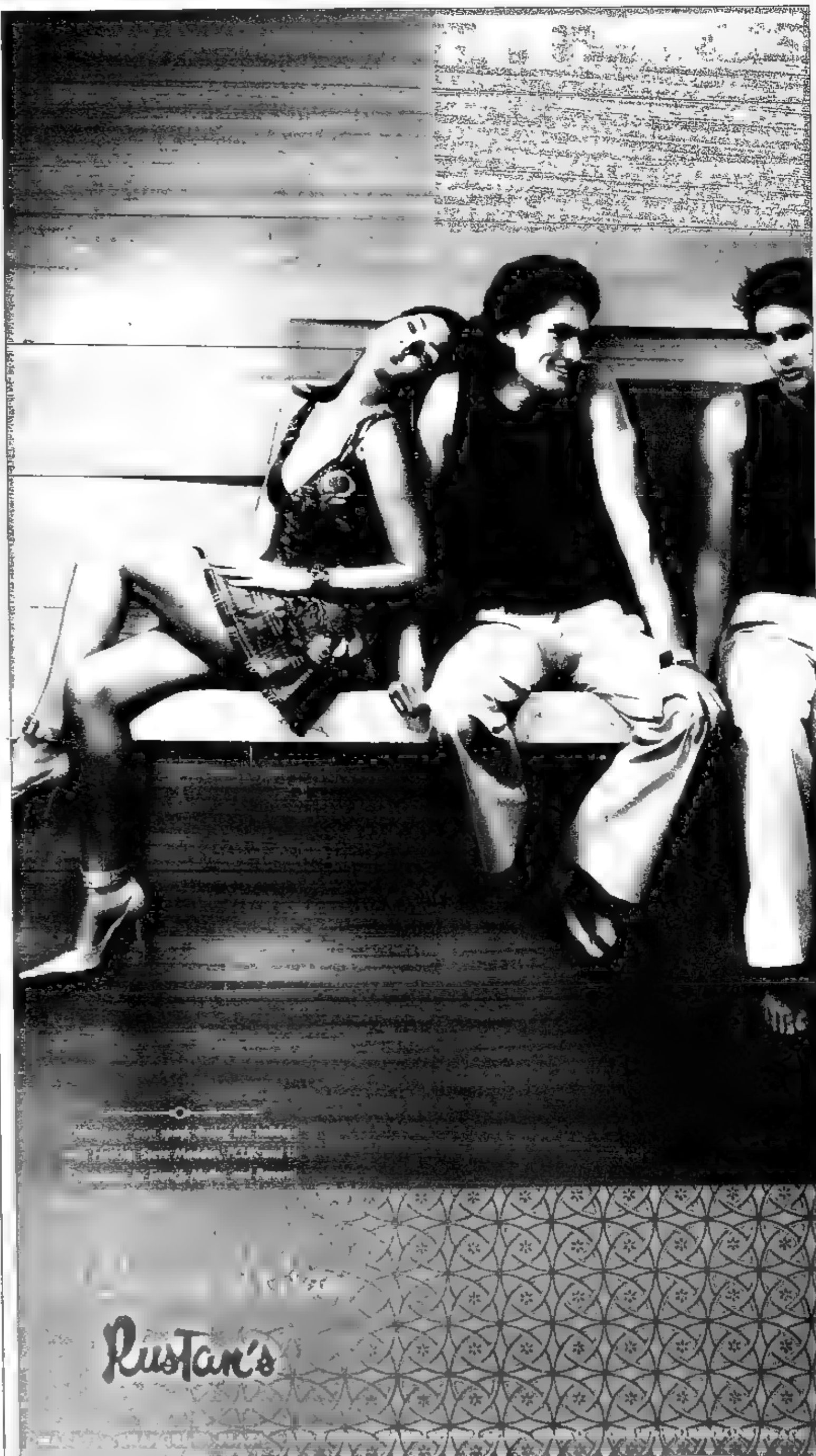
To see my mother die.—Erica Montezon, 19

Ghost stories, but I love watching movies with ghosts in them.—Dhang

One time I saw my father smiling when I looked into the mirror, even if he had been dead for 17 years already. I'm scared of seeing him again in a mirror.—Gemmyen, 19

I'm scared of not having a partner in life. I have had relationships that ended tragically, and I think I won't have a

WHAT/12



Rustan's

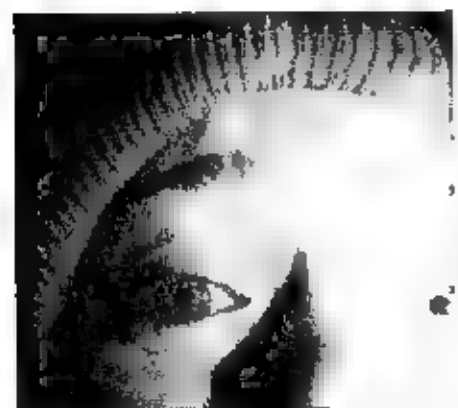


# Monster roster

By Angela V. Ignacio  
2bU! Correspondent

THEY'RE the stuff everyone's nightmares are made of. Just a mere glimpse of their faces is enough to make you cringe, shriek or shiver under your bedcovers.

Well, you voted, we tallied, so be prepared for a major frightfest. Or a major laugh trip.



## 10. The Blair Witch

No, I don't mean the girl. For lack of a better photo, let's use this famous screenshot instead. The Blair Witch deserves honorable mention, because hers is the one face that manages to terrify everyone. Why? Exactly because she doesn't have any. She leaves everything to our imagination. As the saying goes, what people fear the most is the thing they can't see.



## 9. The Cryptkeeper, 'Tales From The Crypt'

Skeletons are permanent fixtures in any kid's nightmares. But the Cryptkeeper is especially scary because he moves, talks and still has rotting skin clinging to his bones. Ugh. Add to that his sick, twisted sense of humor, and you're all but ready to squirm. But don't worry, this old bag of bones is just a puppet operated by six puppeteers... or is he?



## 8. Michael Jackson

What's black and white and scares little boys? Yep, you guessed it. "Wacko Jacko" has been the butt of many, uh, colorful jokes, and his never-ending bizarre behavior has caused people to be wary of him. Take a look at this very unflattering mug shot. Not even his "Thriller" zombie costume can beat this one.



## 7. The Jackal, 'Thirteen Ghosts'

The Jackal is a fairly new but equally freaky addition to the monster roster. Dubbed "Charles Manson," this psycho literally shreds anything and anyone he can get his hands on. From the gruesome getup to the half-chewed metal cage wedged around his head, he looks so grotesque it's almost cool.



## 6. Madam Auring

She's no Cher, but she's taken the term "retool" to new heights (or lows). Despite her "mystic powers," this fortune teller to the stars couldn't predict the frightened reaction of our readers to her surgical transformation. No offense, but we think she should've let nature take its course. After all, age is nothing but a number.



## 5. Pennywise the Clown, 'It'

Send in the clowns! Or not. My friends who are terrified of them have nothing else to blame but Stephen King's slasher movie. Tim Curry, who's barely recognizable underneath all that white makeup (and fortunately so), gave clowns a bad name with his razor-sharp claws and evil, evil laugh.



## 4. Marilyn Manson

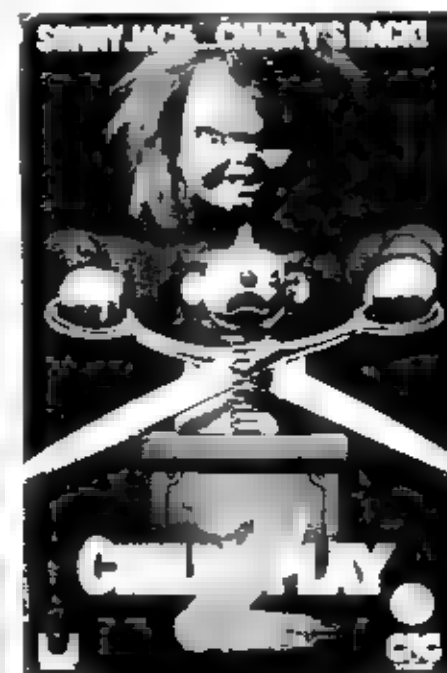
He's every parent's nightmare, simply because he's the one person they don't want their kids to grow up to be (and look!) like. With his satanic songs and Gothic/demonic appearance, he has easily become an object of fear and contempt. But honestly, with all that cross-dressing, weird contact lenses and pale makeup, what's not to be scared of?

Check out 2bU!'s  
top 10 most hideous  
characters of all time



## 3. Linda Blair, 'The Exorcist'

She freaked your parents out when they were kids, and now she's back to give you the chills, too. After several trials and tons of makeup, the angelic Linda Blair was transformed into a perfectly hideous little devil. The makeup artists of the early '70s must be pretty darn proud of themselves.



## 2. Chucky, 'Child's Play'

Just when you thought your kids were better left at home with their dolls, here comes the nastiest, ugliest one to terrorize your homes. The trick to the psychotic killer doll's lifelike movements is that an actual midge gets into the Chucky costume and basically does the action scenes. Still, Chucky's evil expression alone is enough to give you major goosebumps.



## 1. Sadako

As far as all petrified couch potatoes are concerned, she's the mother of all scary faces. With only a white nightgown, Rapunzel-length bangs and an inhumanly large eyeball for a getup, Sadako set the bar high for succeeding horror flicks, Asian or not. It's no surprise that kids and adults alike are staying as far from their TV screens as possible.

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# The scariest people to walk the Earth

By Javier Mata  
2bU! Correspondent

A WISE man once said, "the scariest creatures are the ones without horns." In other words, the scariest thing about this world is that the true monsters aren't hideous demons—they are all shockingly human. Scary to look at? Maybe not, but just think... they could be as close and unassuming as your next door neighbor! In the spirit of the Halloween season, I bring to you the scariest people, both real and invented, to ever walk the Earth. These guys would remind you that the scariest tings are the ones caused by human actions.

## 1. Ted Bundy

Theodore Robert Bundy was an American serial killer who, between 1974 to 1979, killed and in some cases, sexually assaulted numerous young women. After he was captured, Ted Bundy confessed to murdering 30 women but estimates put his total killings to as much as 100.

What makes the story of Ted Bundy so disconcerting is the fact that he does not fit the image that we normally associate with a "homicidal maniac." He was attractive, self-assured, popular and successful with the ladies. He could pass as



one of the college hunk girls swoon over.

Somewhere along the way, this fascination with women, especially those who had dark, shoulder-length hair parted at the middle, led him to a series of grisly murders. He was even a wily man, managing to escape from prison twice and charming his way out of court, a far cry from the insane killer we are used to seeing.

He was executed in 1989.

## 2. Jack the Ripper

By today's standards of crime, Jack the Ripper would barely make the headlines, murdering a mere five prostitutes in a huge slum swarming with criminals in the late 1880s. Why then is he the most well-known serial killer of all time?

Because the story of Jack the Ripper is as compelling as it is scary. Not only is the case an enduring unsolved mystery that professional and amateur sleuths have tried to solve for over a hundred years, but the story has a terrifying, almost supernatural quality to it. He comes from out of the fog, kills violently and quickly disappears without a trace. Then for no

THE SCARIEST/D4



# 'Takot ako!'

By Christian B. Bautista  
2bU! Correspondent

SCHOOL is not just a place where painstaking years of work are exchanged for a diploma. It is also, often enough, a good place to hear a scary story or two to knock one's socks off. See if you've heard any one of these famous tales.

## Red eyes

One evening, a female professor of the University of the Philippines was stranded on campus because of a heavy downpour. Unable to go home, she asked the guards if they would let her spend the night in Benitez Hall. Because of the building's notoriety for being haunted (a reputation based on rumors that it was used as a Japanese interrogation camp during World War II), the guards allowed her to occupy a room but locked the door behind her. Curious if the countless stories she heard about the place were true, the professor looked through a small hole in the wall to see if there was anything happening outside. Oddly, the woman saw nothing but the color red.

The next day, she inquired if the stories were indeed true. "Yes, it is," answered one of the guards. "People who saw the ghost said it was dressed in white and had big red eyes."

## Homecoming music

A few years ago, a grand alumni homecoming was held at the De La Salle University campus. It was a night of celebration as old-timers relived their prime in their old stomping grounds. But the night of revelry quickly turned to horror as the guests got a reminder of the location's darker times.

In honor of the countless lives lost during the Japanese Occupation, an air raid siren was set off as part of the program. Immediately after this, music was heard from the St. La Salle chapel. Surprised, the organizers of the event decided to check out the source of the sound. They found nothing.

People speculate that the spirits of victims killed by Japanese soldiers inside the chapel in 1945 were just making their presence felt.

Campus ghost stories are legion. Here are a few standouts

## Scene stealer

One night, a number of students performed a play in the Little Theater at St. Scholastica's College. During the play, friends and relatives of the actors took photographs as souvenirs. When films were developed, a man was seen with the students during curtain call.

The nun was floating, had no face, and had her hands clasped as if in prayer. Also, her neck looked like she had been hanged.

## Hanging around

A student from the University of Santo Tomas College of Engineering got out of class to go to the bathroom. The comfort room he entered had a reputation for strange occurrences, but he didn't believe in such things so he didn't mind going in alone.

When he finished doing his business, he went to the faucet to wash his face. Once done, he straightened up—only to feel something hit the back of his head. When he turned around, he saw a woman hanging from the ceiling.

## Retro party

The University of the Philippines-Los Baños' Baker Hall is the stuff of legend. Its reputation for being haunted is well documented, especially since there have been several TV and print stories about the strange happenings inside its walls.

But mostly, its notoriety comes from one story. A few years ago, a group of students passed by Baker Hall late at night to find it bustling with a unique party. Most of the people in the gathering had retro clothes on, probably dating back to the '80s. The group joined in and had such fun that they decided to invite their friends. When they got back, Baker Hall was deserted—barren and dark.

# What scares you the most?

good partner who will understand and accept me. —Bernadette Belarinal, 21

Not having a good future. That's why I'm doing my best in school so I can graduate and have a good job. —Maria Theresa Basalla

Being lost in the wilderness, being all alone and eaten by piranhas, being thrown to the lake of fire, losing loved ones. —Analyn S. Morit, 21

Giving birth. —Laarni R. Guba

I know it's kind of juvenile to be afraid of death at my age, but I do admit that I'm very afraid of dying. The pain, the uncertainty—and the possibility that I won't like my makeup when I'm already inside the coffin.

—Ria, 22

Losing my partner and undergoing surgery. —Ybeth Ojeda, 20

Heights. —Katrina B.

Giving birth and crawling insects. —Karen Diane Cruz, 22

My biggest fear for now is failing to graduate this year. I have no problem with my major subjects, but I have back subjects. My parents expect so much from me and I don't want to disappoint them. —Tessa Elumba, 21

I'm scared of what the future will bring me. —April Rose Garcia, 20

Dani eh. I got this fear of MMDA patrolmen in uniform, or getting my car stolen. Dapat ba monster? —JR Victorio



I AM scared of God. I am God-fearing. —Jasmine Mata, 21, not afraid to die



THE ASWANG that I saw in my province when I was younger. I'm afraid it will come to Manila because it scares me. —Ipe, 15, doesn't miss the aswang



I AM scared of myself the most because I am very unpredictable. I sometimes regret my actions but I guess I just have to be more careful the next time. —Eunana Sarmento, 20, afraid to get fat as well



# URBAN legends

By Saleema Devi Refran  
2bU! Correspondent

**U**RBAN legends are scary tales passed around usually by word of mouth, but now also increasingly through e-mail and texting. These stories are endlessly told and re-told, acquiring numerous versions and nuances in the retelling. Here are some famous local tales.

## Snake twin

Allegedly, a businesswoman has a snake for a twin. This snake twin is said to be the secret to the family's fortune and success. The snake twin is said to be in human form but with scales all over his body. He has no bones, and is supposedly housed inside one of the family's chain of shopping malls.

That particular mall is said to have a series of tunnels underneath where the snake twin waits. The mirrors in the ladies' fitting rooms are one-way mirrors which the snake twin uses to pick out his next victim. A trap door opens, the victim tumbles in, and the snake has his feast. A certain actress was said to have seen this snake-man when she tried on a dress in one of the fitting rooms.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

## Acid lady

A crazed lady is said to wander the streets of Manila with a bottle of acid in her bag. She walks up to pretty women and throws the acid at their faces.

Another version says an unstable lady splashed acid on the face of her sister out of anger and jealousy. She is said to have received psychiatric care, but was discharged and is now roaming the streets ready to wreak havoc again.

## Food for thought

A number of popular food items are said to be unsafe or tampered with. A Pinoy food chain is rumored to be using worms instead of beef in its burgers. Its chief competitor, on the other hand, is using sayote instead of apples in its apple pies.

How about these? Pieces of a dead man are in soft drink bottles, while the other brand has glass shards in its bottled drinks. A big fried chicken chain serves not breaded chicken but rats, and makers of sopao don't really use pork but cat meat.



## Insects galore

Insects are finding different ways to get into our system, or so the stories go. A woman sewing envelopes for a living uses a sponge to wet the envelopes. One day she decides to use her tongue. A few days later, she notices a lump growing in her tongue. It gets so big she decides to have it checked. The doctor cuts open the lump and a cockroach crawls out.

A vacationing woman lies on the beach getting a tan all day long. Rumor has it that lying on the sand too long can cause small worms to enter your pores. She doesn't believe this, of course. Later that week, while drying her hair, the woman tilts her head and out of her ear falls a worm.



## AIDS scare

People were cautioned about watching movies in a certain movie house in the mid-'90s, because a crazed HIV patient was said to be putting infected needles in theater seats with messages like "Welcome to world of AIDS."



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

## Future mate

This is a tale tied to witchcraft. It is said that to find your future mate, place a lighted candle in front of a mirror and look at the right side, where the face of your future mate will appear. But never look at the left side of the mirror, though, for it's the face of the devil that will appear.



ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

## Blood for the structure

Superstition says that in order to strengthen the foundation of a bridge or a road, human blood must be mixed with the cement. The more blood is mixed, the stronger the structure becomes.

Another version says new roads should be avoided, since it hasn't had its fill of new blood and a lot of accidents can still happen.

Share some more scary stories with the author at [saleem\\_a@yahoo.com](mailto:saleem_a@yahoo.com).



ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ



Perfect for sharing.



# Someone to watch over us

By Arlene M. Paredes  
24/7 Correspondent

How do young adults cope with the loss of a loved one, and how do they remember them on All Souls' Day?

**T**HERE is no death—no death, but only change. And innovation, what men call birth/Is but a different new beginning; death/Is but to cease to be the same."

From, "The Doctrines of Pythagoras"

I asked a paranormal practitioner about his beliefs on death, or what happens after a person dies. He said, "There is no death, just transformation."

On the other hand, the Catholic Church, according to lay minister Boy Cruz (of the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria Parish, Silang, Cavite), believes the spirit of the dead proceeds to purgatory to be cleansed of their sins hence, we pray for them so they may have peace in the presence of God.

Essentially, there is life after death both for the paranormal practitioner and the lay minister. So, I thought to myself, if this was the case, how have my parents

changed since they passed away?

## No time for grief

I asked a number of young adults who had lost parents or grandparents how they coped with the loss, and how they remember their loved ones on All Souls' Day.

Loida Reyes, 24, a former administration assistant, says that after her father died of a sudden heart attack over a month ago, she found no time to truly express her grief, as she had to be strong

for her mother and two elder sisters.

"It was really difficult. I really tried not to cry during the wake because I wanted my mom to see that I was okay, that we'd be okay."

She often goes to the cemetery with her mother and sisters, and there they recall fond memories of her father. "I know that he is with the Lord right now and watching over us."

Emily Teimo, 24, a former research assistant, says she always talks to her father as if he were still around. "Alam ko naman palagi ko siya kasama."

When a big brown butterfly flutters around her, "I talk to the butterfly as if it were my father, transformed into another form, greeting me in his own special way," she says. It's a belief she got from her elders.

Jerick Javier, 19, a Nursing student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, says he grew up without his father, who spent much time working abroad. But when his father died, Jerick still felt devastated.

"But thanks to my mom's strong personality and strong



CAROL Servano



JORGE Madiao Jr.



LOIDA Reyes

faith in God, I've understood and accepted that we will all die someday, and those who remain must learn to move on," he says, adding that, "Up to my dad's last minute, he was telling us how he loved us so much. I know he has always loved us, and that's enough for me because I know that despite the distance then and now, we were and are never truly separated from one another."

Jorge Madiao Jr., 19, also a Nursing student at Emilio Aguinaldo College, recalls that his father died of liver cirrhosis Dec. 14 last year. The pain was made so much worse by the fact that the family would be incomplete on Christmas, which was barely two weeks away.

"Honestly, I'm still grieving. I would say I do have resentments against the hospital where he was confined. Maybe it's just natural to think there were some things that could have been done to help him. I just felt so helpless then," he says. But Jorge knows he should move on. "I just tell myself that he is happy right now, working abroad and helping us."

Chen Rojas, 23, an IT Researcher, lost her grandfather barely a month ago. "He was 82, and although I'd really like to be grateful that God gave my grandpa a really long stretch of time to spend with us, I must admit I still wish he were around, watching the daily news with us."

"Laging si baba'yun, eh. He always read the newspaper in the morning, so there are days when I wake up and expect him to be on the dining table, reading the latest headlines. I guess every morning will be like that," she says.

"Still, I know my grandpa is at peace right now. Our family members have always been very close to each other, and we always show how important we are to each other. I'm sure Lolo knows we will keep him alive in our hearts."

Carol Servano, 20, a college student at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, remembers her grandmother every time there's ice cream on their table. "She was so easy to please, but I especially liked seeing her happy whenever I bought ice cream for her," she

says. "I guess a part of me will always believe that she's just around. I guess that's the only way for us to be not bitter about a loved one's death."

## Just abroad

Well, I can relate to these testimonies. I've lost both my mom and dad, but I sometimes think that my father is just abroad, and my mother will go home late at night tired from doing her work.

I will not say pretending is the key to moving on. But we do need to comfort ourselves from time to time, especially when the pain and the loneliness get too difficult to handle. So we just cling to the memories of our loved ones and realize that, yes, somehow they're still with us.

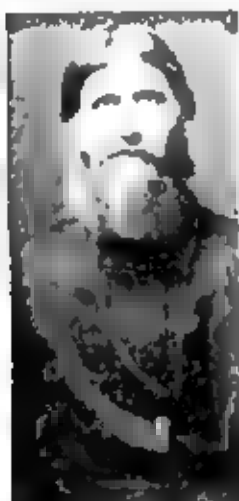
On her deathbed three months ago, my mother told me, "I'm leaving so I could watch you 24 hours a day." She does now.

With contributions from Jorge Madiao

E-mail the author at [then@pastmark.net](mailto:then@pastmark.net)

# The scariest people to walk the Earth

From page D2



apparent reason, he satisfies his blood lust with ever-increasing ferocity, culminating in the near destruction of his final victim, and then vanishes from the scene forever. The perfect ingredients for the perennial thriller.

## 3. Rasputin

Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin is one of the most mysterious, notorious and disputed figures in Russian history.

Who was this man who seemingly had strange powers and a mysterious influence

over others? Did Rasputin have supernatural faculties, as he claimed? Or was he merely a charismatic madman who had a mastery of hypnosis?

Rasputin's rise to preeminence under the aegis of the royal family was due to the fact that he had "supernatural powers." He was the only one who could heal the heir to the throne's hemophilia, and seemed to be able to compel people to do as he wished (scholars attribute both phenomena to hypnosis).

Even his death was eerily unnatural.

Rasputin was fed poisoned cakes and wine by his enemies, but these did not affect him. He was then shot at point-blank range and Rasputin collapsed on the floor.

Later, as the killers inspected the body, Rasputin suddenly regained consciousness and started to throttle one of the assailants. They then proceeded to shoot and bludgeon him, then bound him and tossed him into the river. When Rasputin's body was found, his bonds were broken and his lungs were filled with water, showing that he didn't actually die until he was submerged in frozen waters (scholars argue about how Rasputin could've done these feats).

## 4. Marquis de Sade

The Marquis de Sade will always be known as the most perverse of perverses (The term 'sadism' came from him).

Shortly after his wedding in 1763, he began living a scandalous libertine existence and repeatedly abused young prostitutes and employees of both sexes, later with the help of his wife. A series of scandals and imprisonments followed. It was during his time in prison that he wrote his "literary contributions." De Sade's works contain explicit and often repetitive descriptions of rape and a great number of sexual perversions, many of which involved violence and constantly pushed what was considered "tasteful." He also advocated a hedonistic lifestyle and the rejection of all moral and ethical rules.

As if his writings and lifestyle weren't sick enough, he also began an affair with twelve-year-old Madeleine Leclerc of Charenton. This affair lasted some four years, until de Sade died in an asylum in 1814.

## 5. Josef Mengele

The Holocaust brought out a number of monsters. Many of the German officers carried out the killings of the Jews with evil indifference. No one personified this evil more than Joseph Mengele, known as the Angel of Death. Mengele was an avid supporter of the systematic killings of the Jews and took glee in it, such as his drawing a line on the wall of the children's block between 5 feet and 5 feet 2 inches from the floor, then sending those whose heads could not reach the line to the gas chamber.

Mengele was most notorious for doing the unthinkable: he performed scientific experiments on live human beings in the interest of "scientific discovery." Josef Mengele, a geneticist, took particular interest in twins.

Mengele was almost fanatical about drawing blood from twins, mostly identical twins. He is reported to have bled some to death this way. Mengele injected chemicals into the eyes of children in an attempt to change their eye color.

He did both physical and psychological experiments, surgeries without anesthesia, transfusions of blood from one twin to another, isolation tests and reaction to various stimuli. He made injections with lethal germs, sex-change operations, the removal of organs and limbs and incestuous impregnations. He did all these without feeling a single shred of remorse or pity.

## 6. Vlad Tepes

Ah yes. What would a list of scariest people be without the man who inspired Dracula? More than anything else, "Vlad Dracu" was known for his inhuman cruelty. Impalement was Vlad's preferred method of torture and execution. Impalement was (and is) one of the most gruesome ways of dying imaginable, as it was typically slow and painful. In fact, Vlad became an expert on impalement, finding ways to slowly skewer his victims without killing them too quickly.

He also turned it into his own "art," often arranging the impaled victims in geometric patterns. It was this practice that led people to call the execution sites as the "Forest of the Impaled."

Even during his brief period of imprisonment, Vlad found ways of practicing his gruesome hobbies. In his prison cell, Vlad would catch small rodents and birds and impale them using small forks and little spears.

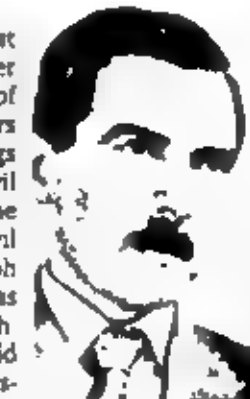
## 7. Hannibal Lecter

Okay, so maybe I'm kind of cheating here since, technically, Hannibal Lecter is a fictional character. But Hannibal Lecter has indisputably become one of the most feared cannibals to grace the pages of a book.

Created by author Thomas Harris, Hannibal Lecter became the poster boy of terror because he represented the worst kind of evil, the one wearing sheep's clothing. The "good doctor" was a man of impeccable tastes (no pun intended). He loved the distinguished scene in Florence, Italy, preferred high-class living and wine and listened to classical music. He also possessed uncanny intelligence and wit.

This was in stark contrast to his true nature as a psychopath who would kill, cook, then eat his victims. What made the character of Hannibal Lecter an effective arch-villain is the fact that he gets what he wants using his brilliance. He would often brainwash or "suggest" to people so they would do his wish, and often found ways of outsmarting his enemies.

Perhaps this is why he is a popular contemporary villain. It is a lot scarier and compelling to chase an elusive enemy and be outsmarted than it is to be chased by an enemy and be outsmarted.





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# Written in the Stars

By Catherine Young  
24U Correspondent

I AM a Gemini. Sign of the twins. I was born at 7:15 p.m. at the Manila Doctors Hospital on June 3, 1983.

I know that writers, lawyers and performers often belong to this category. I know that Gemini is "adaptable, versatile, communicative, witty, intellectual and eloquent."

I know that between the dual Gemini personalities, I am supposed to be the more extroverted one. This, I think, is due to my being so high on coffee that I hug everyone, even strangers.

I know that as far as relationships go, I have highest affinity for fellow Gemini and Aries, and that I am supposed to stay away from Sagittarians.

But I don't believe in astrology. I never have. Why my relatively passable knowledge of my corner of the zodiac? In a word, it's fun. It satisfies my desire to see some signs, no matter how trivial or untrue, of a grand design for the world.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, our fates lie not in heavenly bodies, but in ourselves

I admit I sometimes read my horoscope, but I do it just to see if anything in it does happen. I make it a point to read it only after my day has ended, because that's when I think the reading stops becoming self-fulfilling. In the lab where I'm doing my thesis, it has become a ritual to read our hilarious Libre horoscopes, which often provide a needed breather from our experiments.

## Power of creation

Religion is the primary reason why I do not believe in astrology. As a Catholic, I was taught to pray for solutions to problems, for enlightenment, for understanding. Stars are a sign of God's power of creation, not a means to calculate destinies. To believe in the stars is tantamount to idolatry. For the strictest of worshippers, astrology is a sin.

And yet, despite the predominance of Catholicism in this country, nearly every Filipino probably knows, at the very least, his zodiac sign.

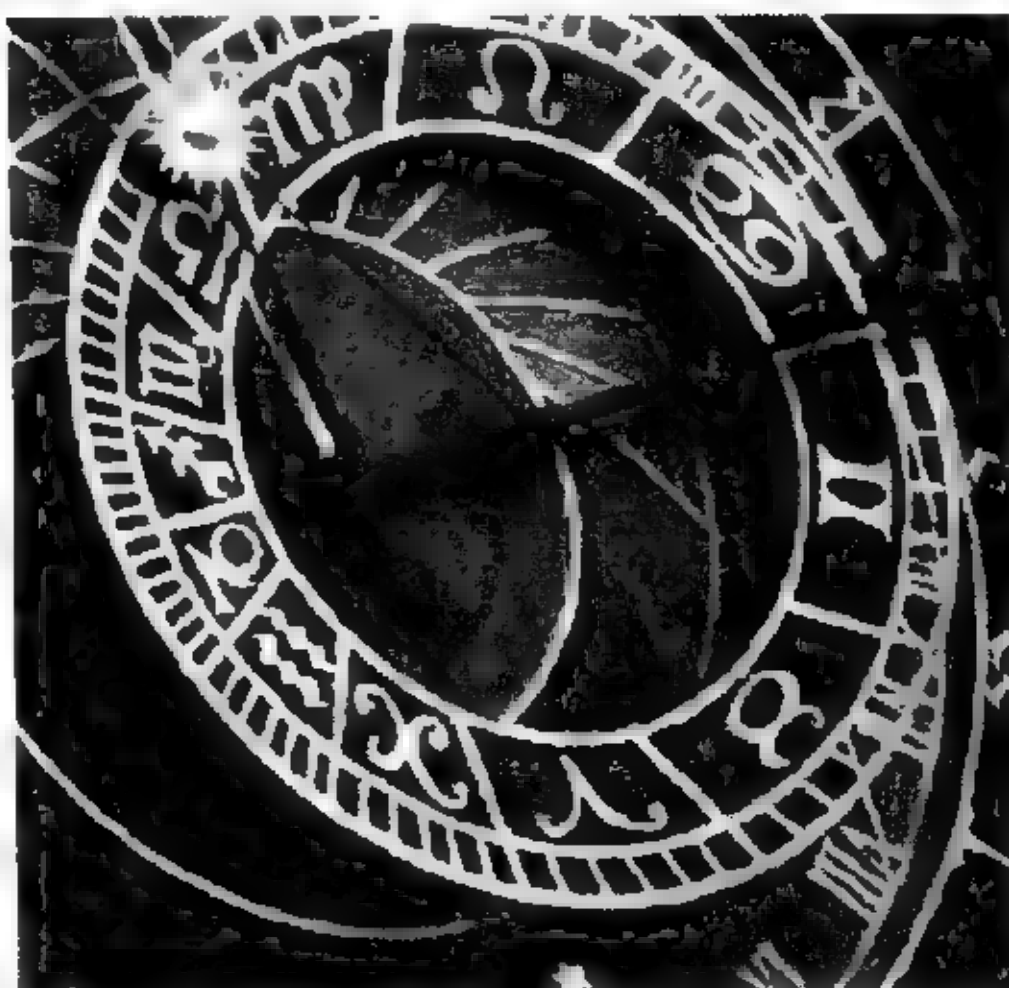
Fatalism is arguably what accounts for our lack of progress as a nation. We see this attitude in the way we deal with everyday things. Instant wealth through lottery numbers, instant degrees through six-month education programs, instant employment through popular yet short-term jobs—all these reflect how fast we want the solutions to appear.

And yet as far as fatalistic countries go, astrologers would probably point out China as a counter-example. For a nation deeply in thrall to feng shui, China is remarkably and enviably progressive.

## Eternally disputable

As far as science goes, astrology is nonsense, a field devoid of logic and reason, and eternally disputable. Because "readings" are interpreted differently by people and are often too general to constitute anything more than mere coincidence, astrology is considered, at best, a game.

Being a student of science has further conditioned me to dismiss astrology. The foundations of everything I have learned the past four years have all been supported by experimental proof, painstakingly gathered and analyzed. Although many of us believe the answers to many of life's most fundamental



AND the compass shall point to your destiny...

questions are probably out there, we also don't think we can get them by scavenging the sky for vibrations of celestial bodies.

Some time ago, I was surprised to find out that Kary Mullis, a 1993 Nobel Prize laureate for his invention of the polymerase chain reaction (a method I have had to desperately repeat dozens of times in the past year), was a believer in astrology. For a scientist (one of the pioneers in my field, in fact) to openly say

that was unusual, to say the least.

In his book, "Dancing Naked in the Moon Field," he titled one of his chapters "I am a Capricorn." And he wrote, "I began to think about astrology in the mid-1960s after three strangers had correctly classified me as a Capricorn. The probability of that happening by chance is 1 out of 1,728."

Then again, this is a scientist who does not believe in global warming despite all evidence so far to the contrary.

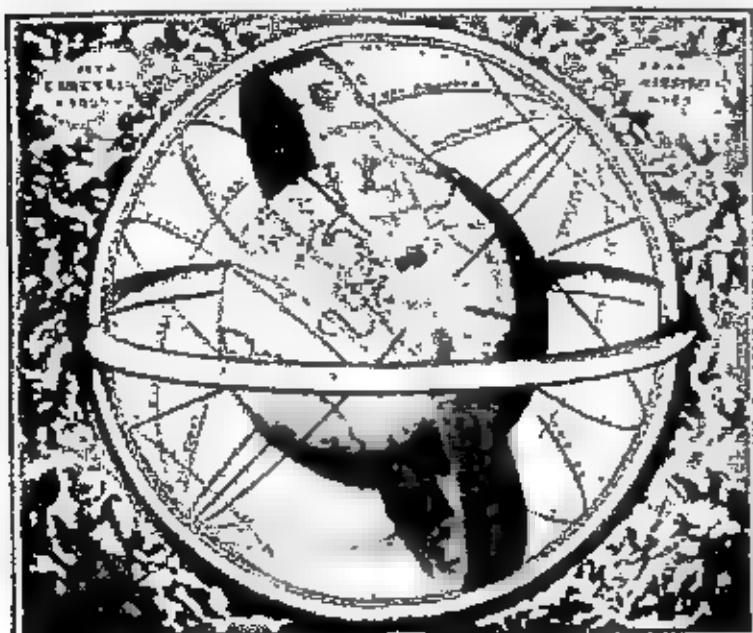
## Self-made destiny

Maybe astrology's inherent difficulty is also what makes me loath to embrace. All those latitudes and longitudes, alignments of the stars and planets, eclipses of the sun and the moon... It's like calculus all over again, only this time you have to look up at the heavenly bodies instead of down at your textbook.

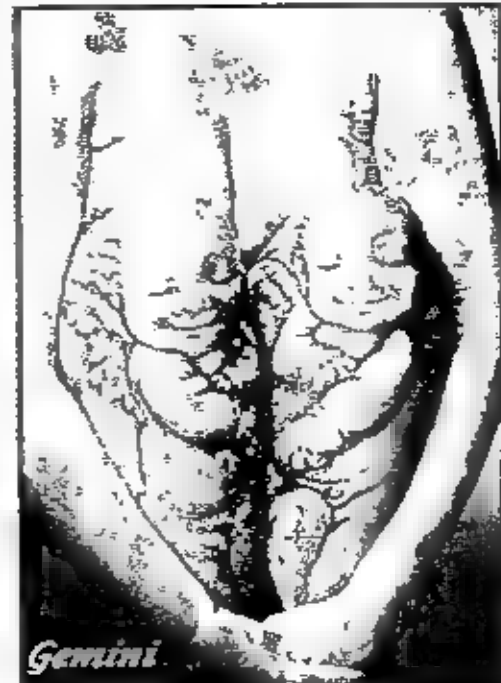
But I think many of us don't believe in it largely out of principle. Because we believe we are what we make of ourselves, not what some stars have decreed for us. To accept astrology feels like accepting the box that the constellations have laid out for us, that we have certain limitations that our will cannot overcome, that we can never do more than what we are celestially equipped to do.

To believe that our fates have been predetermined only says we are incapable of doing things greater than ourselves.

E-mail the author at cathy\_young1@yahoo.com



MAPPING the fates



Gemini

# Shaman, seer and jester

Text and photos  
by Catherine Young  
24U Correspondent

BURIED in the pages of Libre every day is a much-anticipated section: the horoscope.

With love predictions that read "Hindi siya nuukhang kabaya, amoy lang," and career forecasts like "Huwaag tumabi sa fax machine," it is no wonder that this daily horoscope has gained an avid following in the past three years.

The man behind these hilarious predictions is Romel Montemayor Lalata. Once a BS Civil Engineering student of UP Diliman, he left the college because of "too many left wing activists and late nights of Dungeons and Dragons" which he said took a toll on his grades.

He decided to take up Philippine Studies instead after noting the lack of research in Philippine history. He soon realized, however, that he wanted to study the Philippines up close, not within the four walls of the classroom.

Lalata dropped out of school altogether and lived independently. Because of his skill in writing, he became the assistant editor of Inquirer's online edition in January 1998, eventually becoming its online editor until August 1999 when he resigned.

He then worked for a Hong Kong-based finance magazine as a financial technology writer and the content manager of its web site. But in August 2001, he got an offer to join Libre, and he jumped at the chance.

His increasingly popular work on the horoscopes eventually attracted the attention of Cesar

How a former UP student ended up writing INQUIRER Libre's famous Pinoy-inflected horoscopes

Cosme of Bubble Gang, who invited him to work for the gag show. Now, he's been with the program for two years.

To keep his horoscopes fresh every day, Lalata says he needs a gamut of ideas and a good ear. "It's important that you commute," he notes. "Hindi ka magta-taxi, you ride a jeep. You walk, you listen to people's conversation, mamalengke ka. I don't have a car, naglalakad ako."

just to hear flashes of conversation. So lahat ng mga ito, inspired 'yan by real experiences ng real people—yung comments ng mga tao who don't have to watch what they're saying."

An avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, he also turns to books for his predictions. "I have references—books by Linda Goodman (Love Signs), references sa Internet. The problem is that when you're reading horoscopes from the United States, it's so American, not for Pinoy."

That's where his funny bone comes in, transforming these alien predictions into quintessentially Pinoy vignettes.

"Sometimes when I run out of ideas I fall back sa books na may seryosong horoscopes. [I repeat predictions] lala na kung gahol na sa oras. Pero kung masaya ako, kung inspired ako, if nasa MRF for example, nagsusulat ako or [I

save it] sa cellphone."

"As much as possible, gusto kong original, pero minsan kasi ang hirap mag-isip dahil I've been doing it for almost three years. When I encounter a new experience, marami akong natututunan. So I go out, I talk to people, I look around. So a lot of the stuff there are also my personal experiences," he adds.

## Light-hearted astrology

As anyone who has dabbled in the psychic realm knows, it is bad to do this for money. Lalata recalls a friend who was very serious about astrology.

"Sabi sa 'kin, 'yung ginagawa niyo,' racket 'yan. Kasi people have specific horoscopes. People are born on a definite day at a definite place, and the stars cannot be the same for everyone. Kasi may latitudes and longitudes pa... yun ang totoong pagbasa ng horoscope."

But what we do in Libre is not strictly that kind of school. "Ih ba?" he says, laughing. "Yung objective naman is to make people laugh. Yung may babuwin sila, nang buong araw na masaya sila."

Lalata loves being read by so many Filipinos and getting feed back. Ask him the worst thing about his job and he says, "Nagmataba kami. Ako ang pinaka mataas ang cholesterol dito sa Libre."

Despite the main objective of putting a smile on



'ETO ang Friendster picture ko.

people's faces early in the day, Lalata also finds it strange that many of his fortunes come true. "I get calls na minumura ako in a fun way. 'Grabe ka! Bakit gamito ang horoscope ko?' So word gets around na tumatama yung horoscopes."

Born on Sept. 23, this fortune teller is himself caught in a zodiac "limbo"—a cusp between Libra and Virgo. He is also on the fence when it comes to his beliefs in astrology: "Zodiac signs not really, but in a way, oo din eh. Ang duma sa Pinoy is we all know our zodiac signs. You go to some other countries, hindi nila alam. Sa Pinoy, we're raised to believe in that. Kahit hindi formally tinuturo sa atin, it's so much ingrained in our belief system. So pagano kung tumatama? Sometimes nagiging self-fulfilling na."

People are not totally rational. Despite scientific and technological advances, I just think that it's wrong to let [astrology] control your life. Guide nga lang ito sa atin; you shouldn't take it so seriously," he says.

## Need for magic

Interestingly, Lalata utilizes tarot cards when making decisions. "It helps. Gaya nga ng sabi ni Carl Jung, nasa iyo na yung answers; instru-

ment lang ito to help you answer your questions."

He also finds inspiration in the Sandman books of Neil Gaiman. "Kasi you deal with facts, which are sometimes boring. There is a need for magic, something different, not the rational kind. It makes you realize that there is something else na pivedeng gawin dito sa mundo."

But beyond horoscopes and tarot cards, Lalata relies most on his gut. "I've never been wrong sa gut feel in terms of career decisions, except yung mga pinanuntang ko. Fortunetelling never seems to work when it comes to money. It works sa relationships [because a lot of it is] self-fulfilling. Pag malaki yung decision factor, it works. Pero kung malaki yung external factor—money, lotto—eh 'di mayaman na sana ko."

Speaking of lottery numbers, he remembers having a very vivid dream about the number seven. "Tumaya ako pero isa lang kasi hindi ko na alam yung ibang numbers. And it did come out." Perhaps there is something mystical to his talents, after all.

Thanks to Armin Adina for makeup, Rodney Lagman for wardrobe and Tanmy David for her Canon Powershot G5.

E-mail the author at cathy\_young1@yahoo.com

AND now I'll show you the five-point palm exploding technique...



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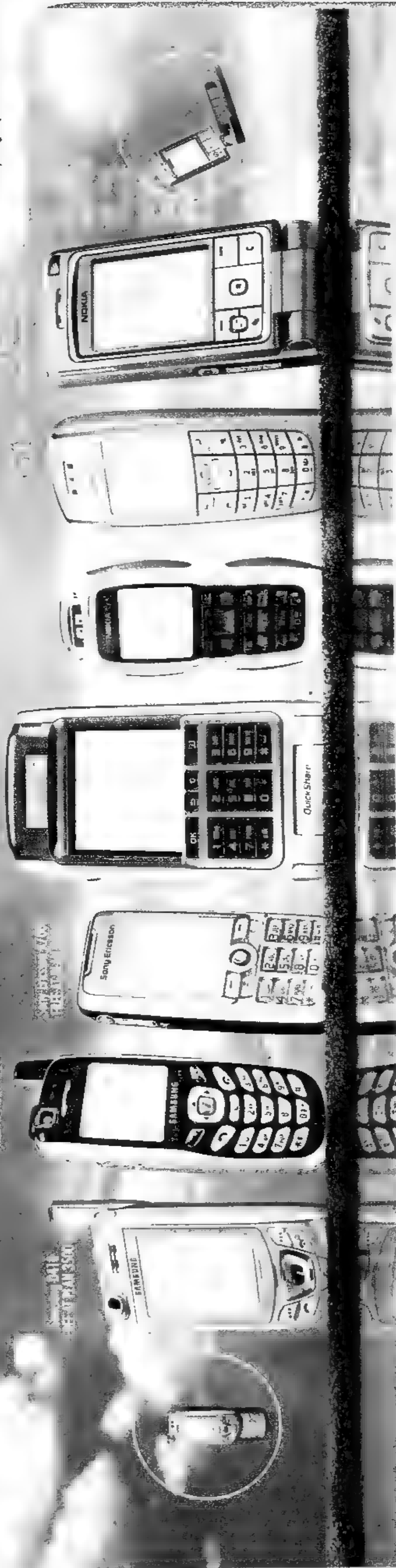
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Text and styling  
by Bianca Consunji  
2bU! Correspondent  
Photos by Jaka  
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CO-STYLIST ASIGAIL PUZON

**F**ORGET plastic fangs, rubber masks and unimaginative black outfits.

Although Halloween is usually associated with ghouls and witches, people have been using the occasion to live out all kinds of fantasies. Which explains why you have vampires mingling with Britney Spears wannabes. Halloween isn't scary anymore. It's one big costume party.

Well, sometimes, anyway. More often than not, the only extravagant outfits on the trick-or-treat scene are worn by kids, courtesy of the children's corner in the department stores. They invariably go as: a) Morticia Addams, b) blond pop star/cheerleader, and c) themselves (with the explanation that they look scary enough on their own).

For many, the ultimate costume is an all-black ensemble and lots of eyeliner—which, when you think about it, is just your friendly goth next door's everyday outfit.

Granted, finding costumes for guys isn't easy, but girls have it made. Remember that fluffy ball skirt you got for the prom? Or that peasant blouse everyone was wearing two years ago? How about the costume your designer friend made for a fashion show?

Even the basic little black dress could be reincarnated into a costume—add a feather boa, borrow a wig, slip on fishnet stockings, and poof! You're all set to live out your "Chicago".

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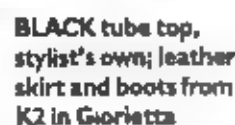
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If you're feeling mischievous (and too lazy to buy a headband), create your own cat's ears with Hard To Get, a pliable paste best for short hair. Get smoky eyes with ME Silver 945 and pair off with plum lip color.

**Aim to look innocent and dreamy.** Before curling your hair, spritz on Uptight, a heat-activated curl maker to make your locks remain bouncy as you walk from door to door to collect your candy. Finish off with P Pink 30 Bush and Sweet Lips Gloss in Strawberry.

Angels have to look, well, heavenly. Use Headrush to enhance shine on soft curls then play up your features with shimmer (not glittery) makeup. Try P Silver 91 highlighter on your cheekbones and shoulders, and IR Rainbow 90QP eyeshadow, which looks white on the pan but comes out shimmering lilac-pink on your skin.

To get really big hair, put up your hair in a bun and attach a curly wig held up by pencils. No, seriously. This gravity-defying hairdo was made possible by Maxxed-Out hairspray (with the pencils). To get icy-blue eyes, try P Blue 555 eyeshadow. Don't forget to use mascara for that extra touch of drama.

Recreate the Roaring '20s with straight, bobbed hair and smoky eyes. Use Control Freak Hair Straightener, then apply blue-black eyeshadow on your lids paired with false lashes. Try ME Blue 638 and P Black 960 eyeshadow.

Manage to look as dirty (but glamorous) as a gypsy with messy hair and daring makeup. Use Small Talk, a styling aid for body and volume, and tease the roots of your hair to get that I-haven't-brushed-my-hair-since-birth look. Try ME Gold 390 eyeshadow paired with lots of eyeliner and red lipstick.

The ultimate Hollywood goddess, Marilyn Monroe's signature look includes platinum blonde hair red lipstick, and mole. Unless you feel like bleaching your hair, get a wig (easily found at National Book Store). Try Lollishine Rouge Lipstick in 135 Mascara Length and Waterproof, and a little mole made with eyelineer.

Think geisha-meets-Chinese opera singer-meets Princess Leia. Braid hair and twist up in a bun, held with Power Trip gel to prevent any strands from falling. Get creative by mixing ME Gold 390 and ME Yellow 330 eye shadows and follow with a dab of P Rad 14, a watermelon-colored blush that's perfect for creating those Oriental eyes.

If you like Satine's look, go for smoky eyes, red lipstick, and either an updo or curly hair like Supersstar, a thermal blow dry lotion for more volume before putting up your hair. Then create smoky eyes with ME Brown B&B and slick on L'Oréal's Rouge in 353.

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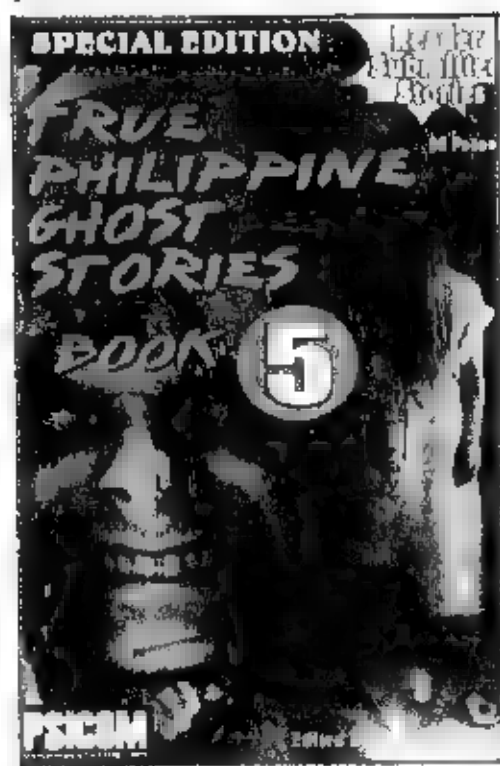
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# Packed with Pinoy horror



By Niño Mark M. Sablan  
2bU Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINES is a huge cauldron of spooky stories and experiences. Whether you are in a picture-perfect province or in the city, you cannot escape elementals, white and black ladies plus earthbound spirits—either in physical form or through stories.

Horror stories on print are always a hit even if you've already heard of them before. Apart from the fact that interpretation is left to your imagination, the focus and quiet required by the act of reading also add to the fear factor.

These days, high schoolers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers. Published by PSICOM Publishing, each book is a compilation of supposedly true stories involving the usual suspects such as white ladies, headless ghosts and aswangs.

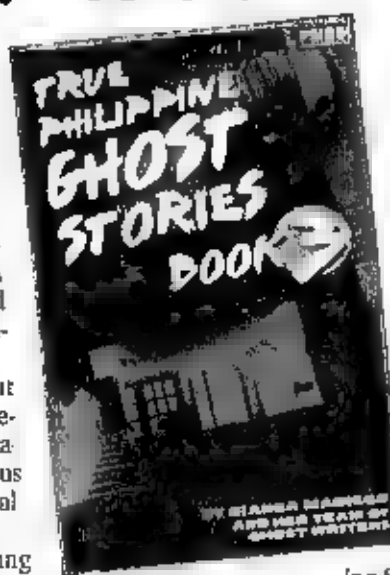
While the books are quite entertaining, some may get bored with the often predictable endings and hackneyed formulas. It's a book that purports to be a collection of "True Stories," yet it includes a glossary of terms (Book 2), a couple of jokes (Books 3 and 6) and, worst of all, a work of fiction ("Teen Travails" from Book 4).

Also, not all stories are about ghosts, since elementals, mananangals and doppelgangers also make an appearance. Excuse me?

## Torrent of errors

Book 1 was printed and released in 2002, and the most horrific thing about it is not the story about the *kapre* or the tales involving apparitions of relatives. It is the torrent of typographical errors in the book, which extends to the succeeding volumes.

The second book is a bit more interesting. Apart from pictures that do not have anything to do with the stories, there are some interest-



Young readers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers

ing fillers such as a discussion on what *aswangs* or *mananangals* are. Particularly interesting are "Spirit of the Glass," reprint of an online post by blue blooded at [www.pinoyexchange.com](http://www.pinoyexchange.com) and a story about the UST's old Med building. Book 2 also has a list of haunted places for interested ghost-hunters to visit.

Book 3's greatest strength is the uniformly commendable set of illustrations by Jim and Jay Jimenez and Gilbert Monsanto, although I honestly don't think any of these artworks can scare anyone. The true horror is, the typographical errors are back.

Book 4 got rid of the illustrations and instead included photos of "ghosts" caught on camera, care of the Internet. This is truly a wise move. How do you argue with pictures, after all? Also, the editors can just get them for free from forwarded e-mail. Very clever.

But what are jolly kiddie doodles doing on one of the book's first pages? Good thing there are great stories, like "Teen Travails" by Viveca R. Singson, and a very entertaining work called "Something Terror This Road Comes" by Ivy Therese I. Cabildo.

## Special edition

Book 5 is a special edition because it contains reader-submitted stories, some of which are

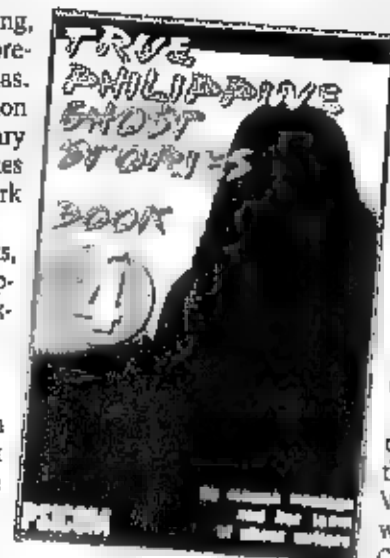
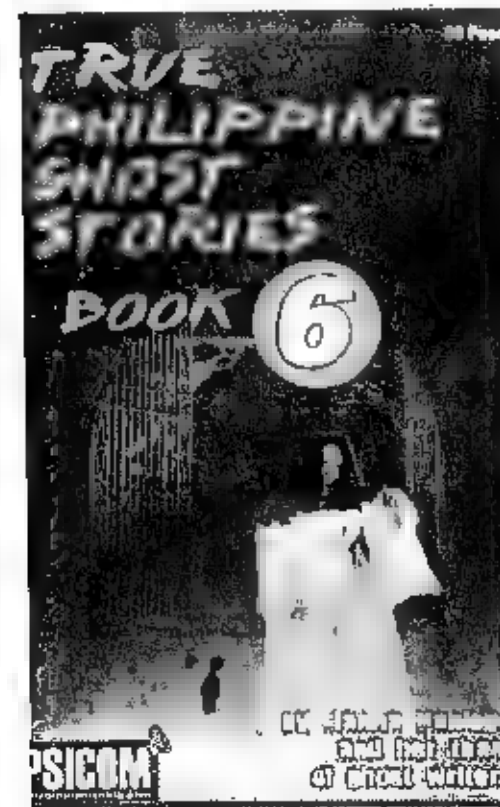
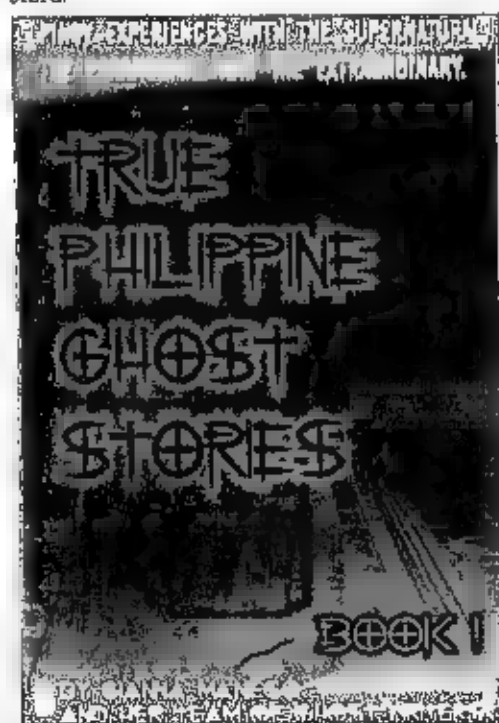
grouped together. It has a scary story entitled "Blinking Virgin Mary," and it has, hands down, the scariest cover of the entire series. I'm joking. The cover blurb reads, "Do you believe in ghosts? Maybe now You will." Truly something to scream about.

Book 6 is the latest installment. It shows that the people behind the series have pretty much learned from their past mistakes. For one, Book 5 editor Reginald Ting is gone, replaced by the comebacking Gianna Maniego.

The content is a nice balance of illustrations, e-mailed pictures and mostly ghost stories. At last! Back to basics.

Got a scary story of your own? Join the ghost story writing contest of PSICOM, the publisher of the "True Philippine Ghost Stories" series and National Bookstore. Get flyers from National Bookstore or log on to <http://www.psicompublishing.com/forum>.

"True Philippine Ghost Stories" Books 1-6 are all available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.



# Tricks for treats

By Pauline Buenaventura  
2bU Correspondent

Makes 12 candies.

## Orange and Chocolate Cheesecake

- 1 box Chocolate Wafers
- 6 tbsp melted butter or margarine
- 3 packs cream cheese
- 1 c sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 5 eggs
- 2 oz melted semisweet chocolate

Combine the melted butter and cookie crumbs. Set aside 1/4 cup of the mixture. Use the rest of the mixture to cover the bottom and 1 1/2 inches of the sides of your cake pan. Press it onto the pan firmly. Set aside in the refrigerator. Beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together in a bowl at medium speed with a mixer. Add one egg at a time. Remove one cup of the batter and add the 1/4 cup of butter and crumbs mixture. Set aside. Stir the orange peel into the remaining batter and pour into the refrigerated crust. Use the melted semisweet chocolate to cover the batter. Spread evenly on top. Bake at 300° for around 50-60 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack and refrigerate for at least four hours.

## Spider-web Brownies

- 4 squares of unsweetened baking chocolate
- 1/2 c butter
- 2 c sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 c flour
- 1 c chopped nuts
- 1 c melted marshmallow
- 1 square of melted semisweet baking chocolate

Preheat the oven to 350°. Grease your baking pan. Heat chocolate and butter together until butter is melted. Remove from heat. Stir until the chocolate is melted. Add the sugar and stir until completely blended. Mix in eggs, vanilla, flour and nuts. Stir thoroughly. Pour onto greased cake pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until set. Do not overbake. Once baked, cover the brownies with melted marshmallow. Spread evenly. Use the melted semisweet chocolate to create a spider-web design. Wait until set, and then cut into squares.

## Halloween Black Cat Cookies

- 1 c crunchy peanut butter
  - 1/3 c of water
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 pack chocolate cake mix
  - 1 pack M&M's plain, chocolate candy
  - 1 pack small marshmallows
- Mix the peanut butter, eggs and water. Add the cake mix gradually and mix well. Form the dough into one-inch balls. Place them on an ungreased cookie sheet. Use a glass bottom dipped in sugar to flatten the balls. Transform the balls into cats by adding M&M's for the eyes and marshmallows for the nose. Form two ears at the top of the cookie by pinching the dough. Use a fork to form the cat's whiskers. Bake your cookies at 375° for around eight to 10 minutes. Stick a toothpick into the cookies every now and then to test if they're ready. If the toothpick comes out with fudgy cookie crumbs, then your Black Cat cookies are ready.

## Candy Apples

- 1 dozen red apples
- 3 c granulated sugar
- 1 c corn syrup
- 1 c water
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp red food coloring
- 12 pcs barbecue stick

Thoroughly wash and dry the apples and insert a barbecue stick on the stem end of each apple. Prepare a greased baking sheet. Combine the sugar, corn syrup and water in a saucepan. Heat the mixture and stir constantly until the sugar dissolves. Cover and bring it to a boil. Once it is boiling, uncover the saucepan and drop in cold water one at a time. Blend in the cinnamon and red food coloring. Remove from heat. Dip in the skewered apples and coat evenly. Place on the baking sheet to harden.

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Mondays - Fridays

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## Spending my Sunday with VIPs

IT felt a bit surreal going inside the NBC Tent on a Sunday afternoon. No, it wasn't an after party that extended till the next day, nor was it a rave event that started way too early.

But yes, I still managed to hobnob with over a thousand VIPs that day. The vibe was fresh, the music thumped and the people were really nice, touchy-feely in a good way. They moved around a lot, making sure all the VIPs had ample space to do their thing.

When I say VIPs, I don't mean chi-chi people out to feel pampered and be accorded special treatment. In fact, it's the other way around. These partyphiles were out to party—meaning, to spread unadulterated joy to other people by means of the "V" word—volunteerism!

VIP now means Volunteer In Person. VIP day 2004 by Hands On Manila was a whole day's worth of selfless devotion for a good cause. This year marks the third anniversary of the organization. INQUIRER president and a true volunteer, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez is the chair of the VIP event—putting everything together with the help of 200-strong volunteers. These VIPs planned and promoted the event, put up the exhibits, ran the registration, distributed

food, manned the booths, and became big brothers and sisters to the kids. "They were there from early morning till the very end. How's that for sheer devotion?" So beamed Hands On Manila president Gianna Montinola, proud of the VIPs within her midst.

"It's so cool here—everyone is so sincere!" exclaimed my co-host for the day's auction, Tessa Prieto-Valdes. Lately, we've been hosting auctions together—we like increasing the value of any given item—for a good cause.

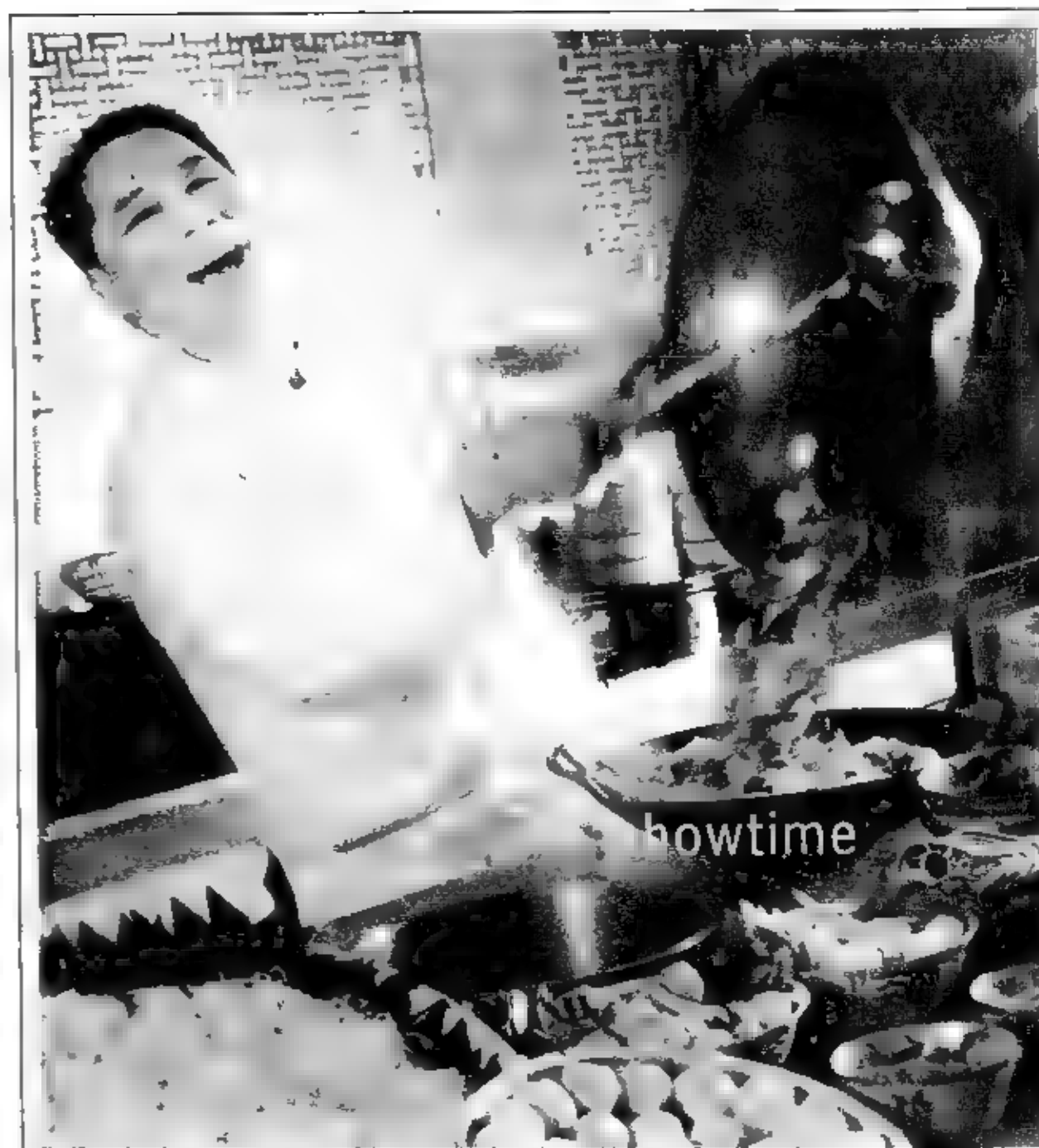
This time, the cause was to instill the value of volunteerism among the youth. But the value of each item to be auctioned off was worth more, because instead of money, the items took in bids of volunteer time. Clearly a win-win (or Wynn Wynn—after Hands On Manila VP Wynn Wynn Ong) situation because you win twice. That's the magic of giving.

### Hands On playground

VIP day started with a mass officiated by Fr. Tito Caluag, with the Hanged choir spearheaded by the Associate Missionaries of Assumption. "Give wholeheartedly," he advised

SPENDING/F2

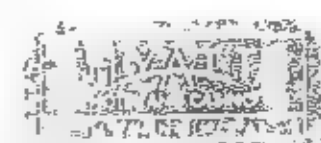
Tim Yap



showtime

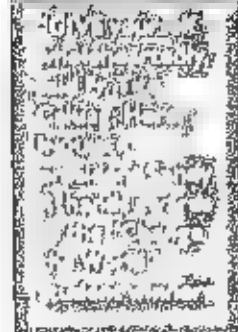
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004. The newspaper is published daily except on Sundays and public holidays. The circulation is approximately 100,000 copies per day. The price is P20.00 per copy. The subscription rate is P1,200.00 per year. The contact information is: PDI, 1101 EDSA, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines. Tel: (02) 886-1000. Fax: (02) 886-1001. Email: pdi@pdi.com.ph. Website: www.pdi.com.ph.

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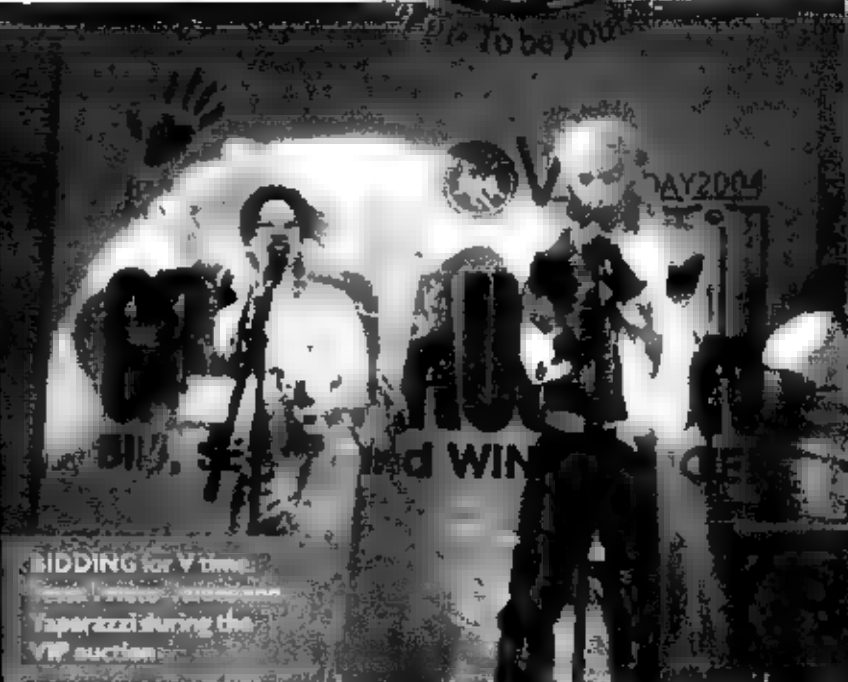
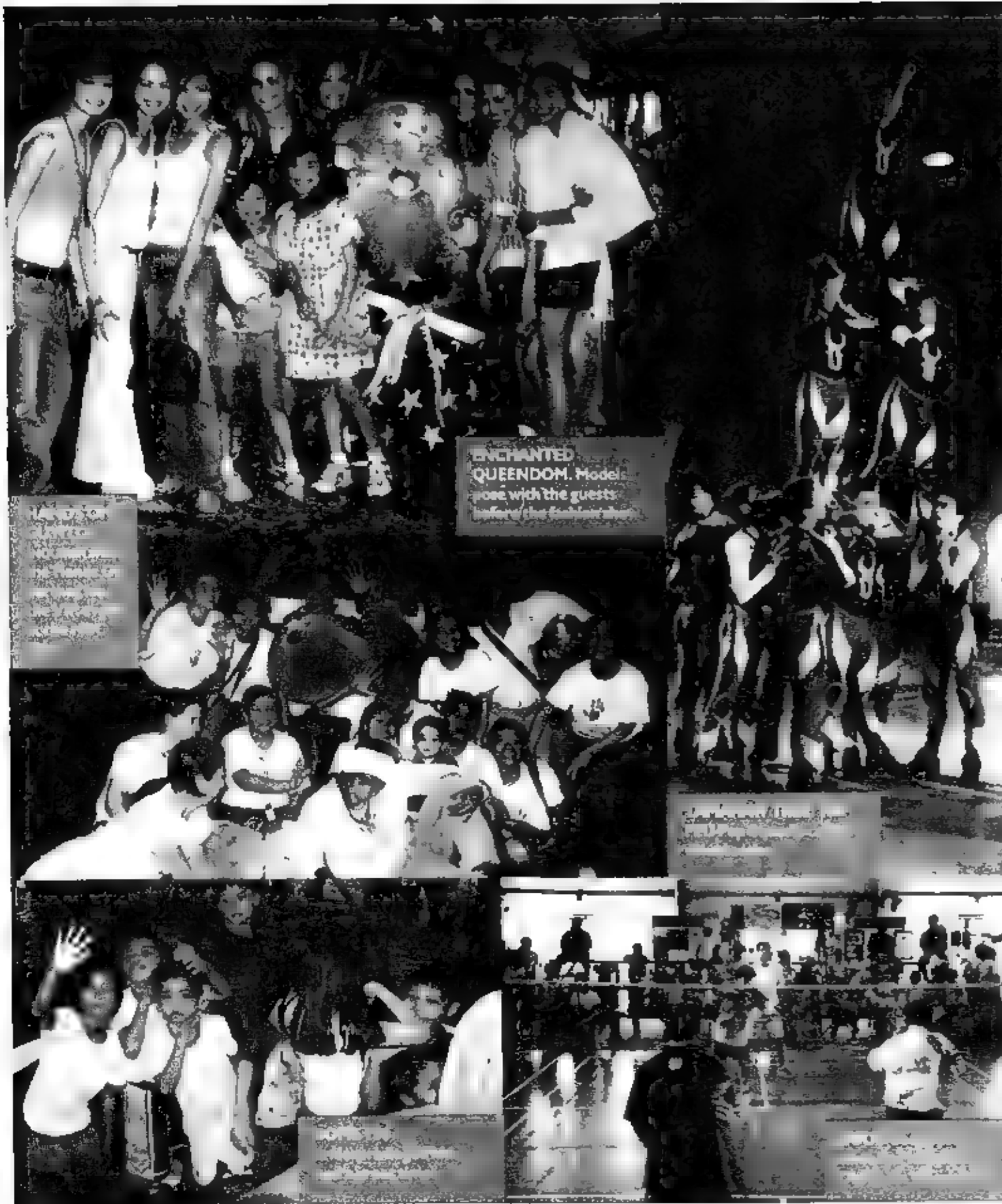


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WORLDWIDE







## Spending n Sunday with Y

From page F1

the crowd while an HOM (that's Hands On Manila for you) AVP directed by Quark Henares was played. In the video, Hands On Manila volunteer Babet talked about the fulfillment of volunteerism. "I am happy that I am able to share my talent. When I go at least I can say I've helped others, I've passed on my legacy," he said in Filipino. After that, 150 kids from 11 children's organizations from different spheres had a field day playing video games, volleyball and bouncing house. "The children were just so ecstatic, their faces full of joy," said Lisa Cristostomo, Hands On Manila director. If I had come earlier, I would have joined them in the Hands On playground.

But the kids went beyond playing. Their relay games were all related to volunteer projects: tree planting, human spelling, "building a house" in going to market, all values-centered to

inculcate a sense of responsibility in our young.

The mobile library of Maseo Pambata was also there, as volunteers did story telling sessions. Unknown to many this was how I spent some summers during my college years. A guest story told by the Maseo Pambata.

Game booths with basketball, fishing, ring toss, reading and art corners, were all over the VIP Tent. After lunch, a fashion show directed by Ariel Lozada and featuring 26U student volunteers Hands On Manila awardees and professional models was held. Woman of style and substance, the stylish Ces Drilon hosted the show, with Bench T-shirts on spot light, as retouched by top de-signer's such as Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rajo Laurel, Joyce (Joren) Ibarra, Laski Aseron, among others.

### Fashion for others

I so wanted to snatch this Rajo Laurel top with white sequined

## Hero #2088 a.k.a. Professor Paint

### HERO PROFILE

Age: 16  
Sex: M

**Favorite Gadget**  
The Brush of Justice

**Greatest Battle**  
Conquering the Blank Wall  
The Call to Action

**Partners**  
Captain Carpenter  
The Plumber of Pickwick  
The Gardening Gang

**Greatest Adversary**  
Von the Vandal

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Painting, Construction,  
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Making a difference  
your way

**Youth Aid 2004**  
...because it's hip to serve

### I wish to be a YOUTHAIDER!

This is your Youth Aid participation form. For those whose schools are participating in Youth Aid, you may pass the accomplished form to your class teacher or school head. If you're participating independently then you may submit this form to your local Youth Aid organizer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature / Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONSENT SIGNATURES

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Head: \_\_\_\_\_

\* This is Joel Mapa, hero #2088. He answers the call to action by painting houses for the homeless so that he can contribute his earnings to Youth Aid and give others a better chance of living. Youth Aid makes it possible for students like you and Joel to make a real difference for the community no matter who you are. Every Peso earned from painting houses or entertaining by playing guitar will help under privileged children build a better future.

This is a job for Youth Aid, This is a job for YOU.

November 20 is our day! We will inspire and show the world how we do it our way. Each Youth Aider will raise 250 pesos to add to the Youth Aid fund. If you are a high school or college student and your school is participating, fill up the attached form and get in touch with your class adviser, school head or school organizer. If your school is not participating, or you want to work independent from your school, or if you are not connected to any school, get in touch with your community Youth Aid organizer.

For more details you can also contact the Youth Aid National Secretariat, 8 San Manuel, Capitol, Pasig City. Tel.: (02)6355219 - Fax: (02)6365190 - E-mail: youthaid@giveasia.com











PIA Guanio with Snoop

# Animal love

Cats and dogs find a best friend in the Philippine Animal Welfare Society

By Diego Rosano R. Mapa  
2b11 Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), in cooperation with PowerBooks, recently put up a fashion show in SM Megamall called "Furry Tales."

It featured celebrities and their personal pets modeling fantasy costumes of characters from "Lord of the Rings," "Snow White," "Harry Potter," "Superman" and other popular series.

Stars like Pia Guanio, Ryan Eigenmann, Francis Magalona, even cartoonist Pol Medina Jr. walked down the ramp, but the dogs simply stole the show from them. Golden retrievers, rottweilers, dobermans, beagles and other assorted breeds came dressed up in bikinis, hats, capes, boxing gloves. Adorable!

Other activities that day included a drawing contest for kids, a photo exhibit of celebrities with their beloved pets, a sale of PAWS merchandise, and distribution of leaflets and other educational materials on animal welfare.

The show aimed to raise funds for PAWS' animal shelter, and at the same time to educate people about animal rights.

## Not frivolous

"People may think this is just a frivolous thing," said Anna Cabrera, event organizer and co-owner of PowerBooks. "But the celebrities here are doing this pro bono, and we're raising cash or medicines. Pharmaceutical companies are giving us free rabies vaccines, for instance. In the future, we hope people will continue to support us even without an event like this."

PAWS is a non-profit organization composed almost entirely of volunteers. The caretakers and secretary are the only paid staff, everyone else works for free. The organization works to prevent animal cruelty and help develop compassion to them.

The volunteers educate young children by going to schools and teaching them how to be kind to animals. They also give lectures to personnel of city pounds to teach them how to be more humane in capturing and taking care of stray animals.

PAWS' pride is its animal shelter, the only one in the Philippines of its kind. It uses stringent procedures in screening and adopting out animals, with procedures patterned after US shelters. Strict compliance is overseen and supervised by Oscar Lei, who trained in Houston SVCA (Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association) on a grant from the Humane Society of the United States.

## Aggressive and visible

British educator Muriel Jay founded the organization in 1954. One of its earliest members, Nita Montiveros (now the president) remembers selling stuffed toys and other items to raise funds for PAWS, and rescuing strays with only two bicycle patrols.

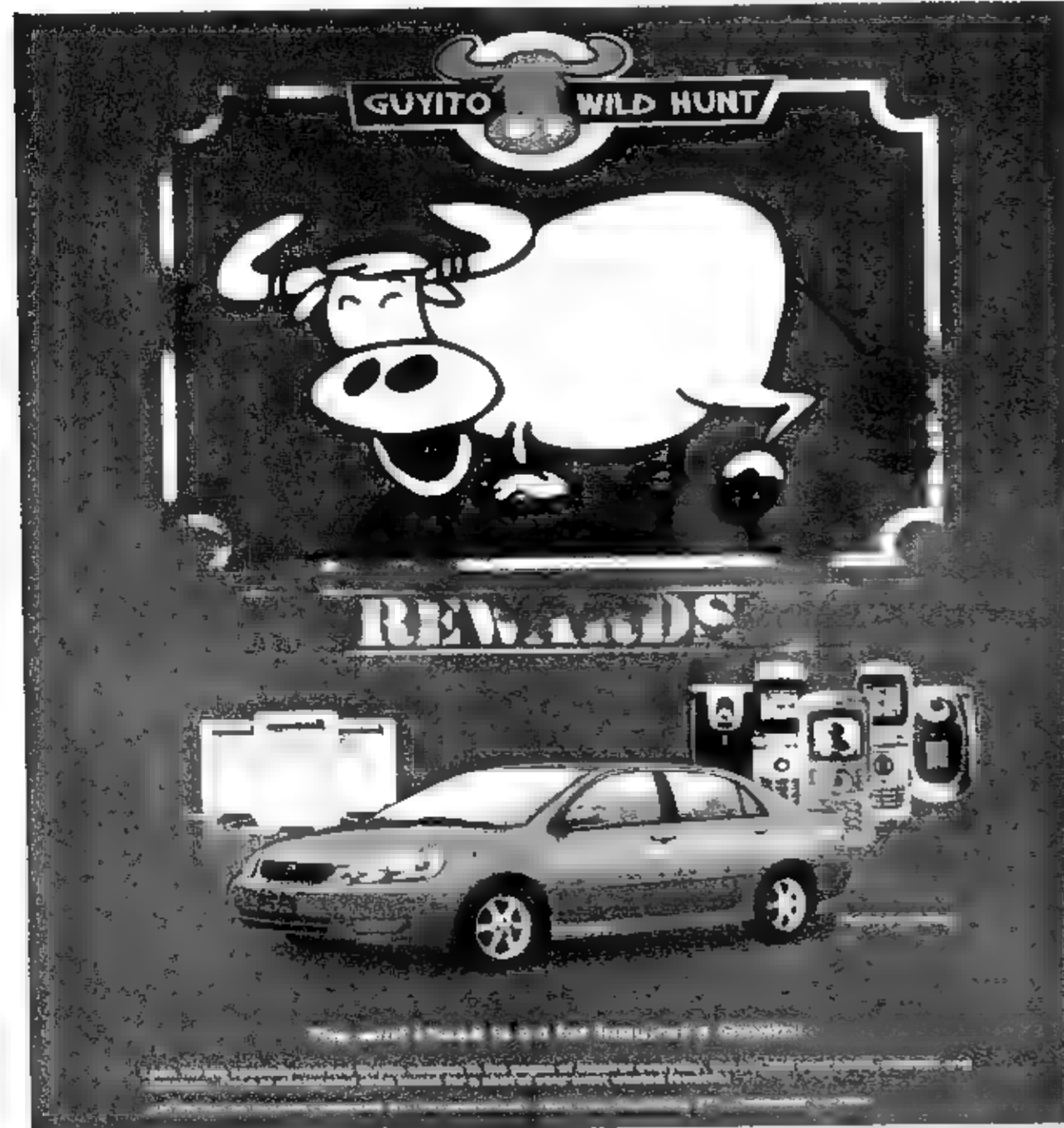
These days, PAWS is a more aggressive and more visible player. It was a prime mover in the passage of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (Republic Act 8485), which makes it illegal to



OLA Paralejo with Keno, a Shelby



RYAN Eigenmann with Hash Brown, a Siberian husky



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10. Find a lost dog or cat and bring it to the nearest PAWS branch. Reward: 100 pesos.

PAWS is a non-profit organization composed almost entirely of volunteers. The caretakers and secretary are the only paid staff, everyone else works for free. The organization works to prevent animal cruelty and help develop compassion to them.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Richard wants to go home again

By Nini Valera

RICHARD Gutierrez admits he wants to go back to the family home because he misses his parents and siblings.

Richard moved out of the family house in White Plains, Quezon City, and now lives alone in the condominium unit of his sister Ruffa, who is married to a Turkish businessman and lives in her husband's country.

"I miss my family," Richard, 20, confided. "I get so lonely at times that I am now planning to return home."

He is also planning to renovate the den in their house in White Plains. He said it would be a playground for his twin brother Raymond and himself.

### Mother-son issues

Richard said that next year, he will move into his own condo unit, which he acquired recently.

"The unit is not yet finished," he said. "I bought it even before the building was finished. I might move there next year."

The young actor also admitted he has issues with his mother, but he refused to elaborate, brushing aside the issues as a "mother-and-son thing."

He also confessed it's not easy being the son of Annabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez.

"What I'm trying to do is make a name for myself," Richard told Inquirer Entertainment during the press conference of his film festival movie, "Sigaw," last Thursday.

"As much as possible, I don't want to be compared to my dad," he said. "But I guess I can't help that. Being in this business and being my father's son have kept me in the public eye even when I was just a kid. It's not always easy."

### Better than dad

Ironically, Eddie Gutierrez is the first to compare Richard to himself, according to Richard.

"He told me that I am a better actor than he was when he was my age," said Richard. "I don't know if that's true, but he was serious when he told me that. I think it's because of the roles that I play."

"He also advised me to focus on my career, if this is what I really want, and he's been supportive of all my moves."

But Richard wants to go beyond his father's words. He said he constantly reinvents himself for the movies he makes, and has been attending acting workshops to enhance his skills.

"I don't want to appear as me in any of my movies," he explained. "I want to get into character and transform myself into that character."

In an earlier interview, his mom Annabelle told Inquirer Entertainment that Richard is a good son.

"I don't have problems with him," she said. "He helps the family willingly. He told me his plans about renovating some rooms in the house, and I'm happy he's doing that."

### Business boom

She also revealed that Richard is generous with his siblings.

"He always remembers the family and gives us gifts," she related. "He's not hard-headed at all, and he has a good heart."

"When the twins were born, they brought us luck," she said. "At that time, we were living in the US and selling pots and pans. I have

two sets of this cookware that I use up to now. I bought them after the twins were born so I have a souvenir to mark their birth. After their birth, our business suddenly boomed. We received so many orders for the pots and pans. The twins brought with them many blessings."

In his daily fantasy soap "Mulawin" on GMA 7, Richard plays the birdman Aguiluz. The series takes up most of his time, he said, but he managed to squeeze in shooting days for "Sigaw," where he is paired with Angel Locsin, his "Mulawin" co-star.

He debunked speculations that he and Angel are now a pair.

"I have no girlfriend at the moment," said Richard, who had gone steady with Anne Curtis for about a year.

He also denied rumors that a third party was involved in his breakup with Anne.

"It was a mutual decision," Richard said. "We're now good friends."

### Happy twin

Notwithstanding the guarded answers, Richard makes an intelligent subject for an interview. He finished high school in the US, came back to the Philippines with his twin Raymond, a more brooding version of Richard, and lived in the family home in White Plains.

Raymond is not in show biz the way Richard has embraced the movies.

"He is happy the way he is," Richard said of Raymond. "That's okay, too. As long as he's happy doing his thing, that's fine with me."

He revealed that "Sigaw," a horror movie directed by Yam Laranas, had given him a few scares. The movie is set in the abandoned Avenue Theater on Escolta in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The members of the production staff claimed they had several unexplained occurrences on the set. Strange noises were heard during the shooting, and several unearthly presences could be felt, they claimed.

### Negative factors

The hauntings, a staffer said, set the mood for the movie, which Yam Laranas described in a press release as one of the scariest films this season.

But Richard is not bothered by the supernatural. He is more concerned about the real-life intrigues that sometimes haunt him.

"That's one thing I hate in this business," he said. "The intrigues and the rumors, the 'plastic' people. Those are the negative factors in being an actor. But I have to live with them and not let them affect me."

He plays an ordinary young man in "Sigaw," who gets entangled with one of his neighbors, a battered wife (Iza Calzado), who suffers the ritual beating from her husband, a cop played by Jomari Yllana. But it's his role in last year's "Mano Po 2" that is still Richard's benchmark for good acting.

"That role is my favorite so far," said Richard. "It was offbeat in the sense that there was so much angst in the character. I still have to top that performance."

"Mano Po 2" had Richard playing the tortured son of Lorna Tolentino, who played the third wife in the extended saga of a Chinese patriarch. In the movie, Richard got to commit suicide, a role that went against the grain of matinee idols.

"That's the point," said Richard. "I don't have to be a matinee idol. I just want to be a good actor."

**GOOD SON.**  
Ruffa's brother admits it's hard being the son of Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, who only has praises for her son



### KC IN PARIS

KC CONCEPCION has bedazzled us since the minute she was born to a megastar mother and an equally famous father. She has since bloomed into a star/model/endorser who's almost as in demand as her mom. Today, she is a Communications and Business student in Paris, where she also works as a secretary with a French TV production company. On her last visit to Manila, she shared the exciting details of her stay in the City of Lights, including her shopping expeditions. "You can lose your whole bank account in Paris!" she said. KC's French adventure is in the latest issue of Mega magazine, on whose cover she first appeared when she turned 16.

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# SeeMa!!

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2 BEFORE SUNSET	2 THE GRUDGE	2 WHITE CHICKS	6 THE GRUDGE	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 CELLULAR	3 BEFORE SUNSET	7 CELLULAR	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 CELLULAR		4 THE DOLL MASTER		4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 WHITE CHICKS	4 WHITE CHICKS	1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	4 WHITE CHICKS	5 THE PUNISHER
		2 THE GRUDGE	5 CELLULAR	

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she just wants to be treated  
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first  
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kalie

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1 BEFORE SUNSET

2 BABY GENIUSES 2

BABY GENIUSES 2	MTICB Rating: G
SM Megamall Cinema 6	SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3	SM City North Edsa Cinema 2

BEFORE SUNSET	MTICB Rating: PG-13
SM City Manila Cinema 6	SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6	

CELLULAR	MTICB Rating: PG-13
SM Megamall Cinema 3	SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM Southmall Cinema 1	SM City Fairview Cinema 4
	SM City Bicutan Cinema 2

THE GRUDGE	SUBJECT TO MTICB RATING
SM City Manila Cinema 4	SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8	SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM City Fairview Cinema 6	SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW	SUBJECT TO MTICB RATING
SM Megamall Cinema 7	SM City Manila Cinema 7
	SM City Fairview Cinema 7

STEAL	SUBJECT TO MTICB RATING
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9	SM Southmall Cinema 8

WHITE CHICKS	MTICB Rating: PG-13
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3	SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM Southmall Cinema 4	SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1	SM Megamall Cinema 9

DOLL MASTER	MTICB Rating: R-13
SM City Manila Cinema 9	SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 12	SM Southmall Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4	SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
	SM City Fairview Cinema 3
	SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	MTICB Rating: PG-13
SM City Manila Cinema 2	SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 1	SM City Fairview Cinema 9

LADDER 49	MTICB Rating: PG-13
SM City Manila Cinema 11	SM City North Edsa Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10	SM Southmall Cinema 1
	SM Megamall Cinema 10

RESIDENT EVIL	MTICB Rating: R-13
SM City Manila Cinema 10	SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1	SM City Fairview Cinema 1

SHARK TALE	MTICB Rating: G
SM City Manila Cinema 8	SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 5	SM Southmall Cinema 5
	SM City Fairview Cinema 10

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2

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BOY ABUNDA's "Private Conversations" has been nominated for best talk show in the Asian Television Awards in Singapore. The winners will be known in December. "Private Conversations" is aired on ANC.



ALICIA Keys

## 'The Diary of Alicia Keys'

ONCE in a while, a true musician like Alicia Keys' comes along—the kind that looks at her work as an expression of her own experiences.

These experiences are chronicled in Keys' latest release, "The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition," an album that reflects who she is and what she's about.

The album has already spawned such radio and music video favorites like "You Don't Know My Name" and "Diary," which is at No. 5 on dwRX 93.1 and No. 10 on Wave 89.1.

The special edition album also includes a bonus CD featuring album track remixes and "If Ain't Got You," where she is joined by Usher, today's hottest male R&B artist.

To launch the special edition album, Keys will be releasing a new single, "Karma." The song demonstrates her innovative approach to music and the diversity of her own musical training.

Keys is a rare artist—a singer, songwriter and extraordinary pianist who combines classical training with an old-school sensibility and a mix of hip-hop and R&B.

"The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition" album is now available in record stores nationwide and is exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Philippines) Inc.



# Pamela Anderson urges Queen to stop using fur in guards' helmets

LONDON—Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has sent a petition to Queen Elizabeth II urging Britain's monarch to stop the use of bear pelts in making the tall black helmets worn by palace guards.

The charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) said Anderson collected 200 signatures from fans in Britain and mailed the petition to Buckingham Palace on Friday. A palace spokeswoman refused to comment.

In her petition, the 37-year-old actress argued that synthetic materials should be used to make the hats worn by guards who patrol the palace gate.

The towering black hat, or busby, dates back almost 200 years to the Battle of Waterloo and is a key part of the uniform of the five guards' regiments—the Coldstream, Grenadier, Irish, Scots and Welsh.

It also features in traditional ceremonies like Trooping the Color and the Changing of the Guard.

"We the undersigned urge the queen to call on the Ministry of Defense to cease the use of real fur on the uniforms for the regiment of foot guards," the petition said.

Anderson collected the signatures at a London store where she was signing copies of her new novel on Thursday.

"Peta has worked with a top faux fur manufacturer to produce a material that is now being field-tested by the Ministry of Defense to replace bear fur, but during this process bears continue to be killed to make these ceremonial hats," said a Peta spokeswoman.

But army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Dick-Peter said no suitable synthetic alternative had yet been found.

"The army has been working closely with Peta because they say they can produce a satisfactory alternative using artificial fiber," he said.

"So far, Peta has signally failed to do so."

He added that "no bears are killed simply for the caps."

"The bears are killed to control the population," Dick-Peter said. "Where we can use an artificial alternative, we do so."

Fake leopard skin is now worn by drummers in marching bands, while the smaller busby worn by members of the King's Troop is no longer made from beaver fur. AP

## Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX	
3	<b>BABY GENIUSES 2</b> 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4	<b>THE GRUDGE</b> 11:20 am 1:40 pm 4:10 pm 6:35 pm 8:50 pm
5	<b>CELLULAR</b> 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
6	<b>THE DOLL MASTER</b> 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7	<b>ROOM SERVICE</b> 11:50 am 2:00 pm 4:10 pm 6:20 pm 8:30 pm

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Oct 29	SAN MIGUEL vs RED BULL
Nov 3	ALASKA vs STA LUCIA
Nov 6	AND 1 MIX & PBL ALL STAR GAME
Nov 7	COKE vs STA LUCIA

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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPPOD
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUNTO AY BASHA / KASIBULAN
TANDEM-1	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-2	SUNAT
TIMES	KATAHAN MO LANGIT NG

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPARAY
CORONET A	KARELASON / KANG-APPOY NA LAMAY
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BEGTUONG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-28-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	BEFORE SUNSET / GRUDGE / SHARK TALE / WHITE CHICKS
PREMIERE THEATRE	LADDER 49

CAINTA, RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 10)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN VATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	REVENGE
CINEMA-8	EXORDIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	THE DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BLVD-28 SUPERMALL
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	REVENGE

UNI-WIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAGUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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**GUARANTEED SEATS**

1	<b>THE GRUDGE</b> 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30 8:50, 11:10 R-13
2	<b>WHITE CHICKS</b> 10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 PG-13
3	<b>SHARK TALE</b> 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 PG
4	<b>BEFORE SUNSET</b> 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00 PG-13

**POWER PLANT CINEMA**

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981-440-41

<b>LADDER 49</b> PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	<b>SHARK TALE</b> GP 12:00, 1:50, 3:40, 5:30 STEAL R13 7:30, 9:30	<b>FIRST DAUGHTER</b> GP 12:00, 1:50, 3:40, 5:30 STEAL R13 7:30, 9:30
<b>WHITE CHICKS</b> PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:05	<b>SKY CAPTAIN</b> GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:05	<b>CELLULAR</b> PG-13 12:5, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55, 11:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 01 - MON. TO FRI.

**Star group of cinemas movie guide**

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	4 <b>The Doll Master</b>	
	5 <b>Flying Daggers</b>	
	6 <b>Phantom of The Opera</b>	

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1 <b>BEFORE SUNSET</b> (PG-13)	3 <b>SHARK TALE</b> PG-13 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM (COP)
2 <b>GRUDGE</b> PG-13 12:40PM, 3PM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM L10F - 10 PM (PG-13)	4 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b> PG-13 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM (COP)

**PREMIERE THEATRE** LADDER 49  
PG-13  
11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM, 10PM

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**LADDER 49**

2 <b>BEFORE SUNSET</b>	3 <b>SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2</b>	4 <b>THE GRUDGE</b>
5 <b>CELLULAR</b>	6 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b>	7 <b>THE SIN</b>
8 <b>SHARK TALE</b>	9 <b>HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS</b>	10 <b>SKY CAPTAIN</b>

**ERMITA**

536-7809 to 12

**SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2**

1 <b>THE DOLL MASTER</b>	3 <b>BEFORE SUNSET</b>	4 <b>CELLULAR</b>
5 <b>LADDER 49</b>	6 <b>THE GRUDGE</b>	7 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b>

**METRO EAST**

682-8193/98 / 682-8280

1 <b>SHARK TALE</b>	5 <b>CELLULAR</b>
2 <b>SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2</b>	6 <b>HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS</b>
3 <b>THE GRUDGE</b>	7 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b>
4 <b>LADDER 49</b>	8 <b>THE DOLL MASTER</b>

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935-3229 / 31

1 <b>THE GRUDGE</b>	5 <b>SHARK TALE</b>
2 <b>SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2</b>	6 <b>THREE</b>
3 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b>	7 <b>SKY CAPTAIN</b>
4 <b>FENG SHUI</b>	8 <b>STEAL</b>

**Citistown MALABON**

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1 <b>LADDER 49</b>	3 <b>HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS</b>
2 <b>DEAD PEOPLE</b>	4 <b>ROOM SERVICE</b>

**CAINTA**

240-4681

1 <b>THE GRUDGE</b>	3 <b>SKY CAPTAIN</b>
2 <b>WHITE CHICKS</b>	4 <b>ROOM SERVICE</b>

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